FBIS DAILY REPORT

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U.S. WITHDRAWS OBJECTIONS TO AID TO NICARAGUA

PY180144 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by George Hatch]

[Text] The United States has backed off its insistence that Argentina not send economic aid to Nicaragua's Sandinist government, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source said yesterday. The source said in talks with Argentine Foreign Ministry officials in Washington last week members of the Reagan administration "did not even mention" the aid -- a 45 million dollar import credit, two million dollars in food aid, and a one million dollar technical assistance package.

Late last January US Ambassador to Argentina Frank Ortiz warned Foreign Minister Dante Caputo verbally the US would consider Argentine economic assistance to Nicaragua "a hostile act," Foreign Ministry and other government officials have confirmed.

"It's as if the United States has decided to ignore (the aid) matter now." said one Foreign Ministry official yesterday. "After meetings with us here and in Washington, I think they feel assured that our intentions are by no means to escalate violence in the area." Government authorities contend the planned assistance to Managua is meant to complement efforts by the "Contadora" Group -- Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela [as published] -- to draw Nicaragua's leftist regime towards Western-style democracy by means of close ties and incentives. Nicaragua currently receives cut-rate oil from Mexico and Venezuela and financial aid from Colombia.

The deputy chief of the US embassy here, John Bushnell, yesterday denied the US had ever warned Argentina against sending economic aid to Nicaragua. "We certainly have never issued anything that could be considered a warning," Bushnell said in a brief telephone conversation with the HERALD. "On the other hand, we do not favour aid to countries like Nicaragua and Cuba, which use their resources for promoting violence in other countries."

Argentine officials said yesterday the aid to Nicaragua, which has received the approval of President Raul Alfonsin, is likely to be approved by Central Bank within ten days. They said aid may be paid out gradually, in quotas, because the Central Bank is reluctant to grant credit of any kind amidst Argentina's own foreign debt crisis.

Ministry: No U.S. 'Warning'

PY180146 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr 84 (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry has denied a newspaper report that was published today. The report states that U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz had warned Foreign Minister Dante Caputo about Argentine economic assistance for Nicaragua. In this respect, San Martin Palace has released a communique that states:

"The Foreign Ministry believes that it is necessary to reiterate that only the minister and/or the press office can release the ministry's offical information, otherwise it is not valid information. In this respect, the information that was published today in a daily of this capital and linked to an alleged warning that the U.S. ambassador made to the Argentine foreign minister regarding our country's economic assistance to Nicaragua is hereby denied, because it has absolutely no basis and is therefore not valid."

REPORTAGE ON FRG FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Genscher Meets Grinspun

PY171525 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has held a 35-minute private meeting with Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun. The FRG minister arrived at the Economy Ministry accompanied by his assistants and by a large number of German businessmen who are part of his entourage. The private meeting with the economy minister lasted 35 minutes. In the meantime, the members of his entourage held a meeting in the agreements room. At the end of the meeting, the two ministers joined the FRG entourage.

Trade Secretary Campero said that the participants in the meeting had requested some indications of the Argentine economic team's evaluation of the future prospects of the country. Campero added that many of the FRG businessmen who participated in the meeting have businesses in Argentina and are willing to make large investments to contribute to the import-substitution program and to increasing exports. Asked whether, during the meetings with the FRG businessmen, they might soon decide to sign any agreements, the trade secretary said that many FRG firms in Argentina are already making large investments, particularly in the chemical field. Campero added that he is also discussing metal industry projects with them.

Meets Congressional Leaders

PY171758 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher today expressed his country's decision to help Argentina overcome its foreign debt problem, adding that the FRG will do it through the Paris Club. The diplomat also disclosed that the Argentine-German mixed economic, scientific, and cultural commission will meet in the next few weeks, stressing that this shows that the two countries are very interested in increasing cooperation.

Genscher made brief statements at the end of a meeting with Senate President Victor Martinez this morning. Members of the FRG minister's entourage, Radical Senator from La Pampa Antonio Berhongaray, radical leader Luis Caeiro, and other senators were also present.

Among the progress made thus far during his visit, the diplomat mentioned the decision expressed by Argentina and the FRG to increase political, scientific, and economic cooperation. For his part, Vice President Martinez said he was pleased with the meeting, during which the FRG minister confirmed the upcoming visit to Argentina by FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The FRG minister also met with Chamber of Deputies President Juan Carlos Pugliese this morning. The third meeting between top Foreign Ministry officials and the members of the FRG minister's official entourage was held at San Martin Palace this morning. Neither Genscher nor Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo participated in the meeting. Foreign Ministry sources reported that the two delegations do not plan to sign any agreements.

Afternoon, Evening Schedule

PY172306 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] This afternoon, the FRG foreign minister laid a wreath on the monument to the fallen in the two world wars and the victims of the National Socialist persecution at the German cemetery in Chacarita. At 1730, Minister Genscher will grant a press conference at the FRG Embassy building, which he will dedicate. Tonight, he will give a reception to members and personalities of the German community in Argentina.

Discusses Cooperation

PY171604 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2355 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (DYN) -- Tonight FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that "the time has come for relations" between the EEC and Argentina "to be established on a new and better basis," and that his government "will support Argentine interests." Genscher made these remarks during the reception given in his honor by the German-Argentine Chamber of Industry and Commerce at a downtown hotel.

The minister described the basic principles involved: "We want to cooperate according to our possibilities toward the political and economic stability of the region; we are against an extension of the East-West confrontation into Latin America; we want to make a contribution to a good Latin American-European relationship."

He said that the FRG and Argentina "are important partners in foreign trade," giving trade figures.

He added that "the time has come for relations between the EEC and Argentina to be established on a new and better basis," and that to this end his government "will support Argentine interests."

After referring to German investments in Argentina, Genscher said that Western industrialized countries should "support economic growth without unleashing new inflation." explaining that to do so it is necessary "to limit budget deficits." He said that "the reactivation of the world economy and the development of the Third World are related by multiple links," adding that "the problem of indebtedness continues to be a special task for many countries, including Argentina, which is rich in natural resources."

He added that "we are convinced that the government of President Alfonsin is aware that the regulation of the foreign debt is extremely important. Argentina is starting on a difficult path." He expressed hope that solutions based on agreements will be reached with international financial organizations, with creditor countries, and with private banks, saying that "these agreements will be very important for the German and European economy." He also expressed confidence that Argentina will reach a satisfactory agreement with the Paris Club.

After referring to the German participation in the construction of the Atucha I and Atucha II nuclear plants, he said that nuclear energy "entails great possibilities of energy supply, but also implies a potential for catastrophic destruction;" therefore, "all nuclear countries have a great responsibility for the exclusively peaceful use of this source of energy."

He added: "In this regard, I welcome the remarks made by President Alfonsin, who has again confirmed the exclusively peaceful purpose of the Argentine nuclear program."

In conclusion, the minister emphasized the cooperation between the two countries hoping that the Argentine-German mixed commission, which met for the last time in 1981, will resume its activities again soon, aimed at "strengthening the cooperation in which we have so much interest."

On Falklands, Human Rights

LD180818 Hamburg DPA in German 2214 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires; 17 Apr (DPA) -- According to the FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the role of intermediary between Argentina and Great Britain on the Falklands issue would go beyond the possibilities of the FRG Government. Genscher said at a press conference in Buenos Aires on Tuesday evening that neither side had asked the FRG Government to take on this role. Bonn was hoping for a political solution to the conflict. This desire had also been underlined by the new government in Argentina.

The talks held by the German delegation in Argentina have, Genscher said, confirmed the correctness of the Federal Government's view that the developing countries, including the threshold countries such as Argentina, should be seen as equal partners. To this end, the FRG Government would press for the economic and financial potential of these countries to be taken into account at the forthcoming world economic summit in London.

Genscher indicated how impressed he was by the way the new Argentine Government was tackling the issue of human rights. The FRG foreign minister said: "The government and the human rights commission are resolutely trying to clear up the fate of those who disappeared and to have violators of human rights prosecuted."

PREBISCH SAYS PUBLIC SPENDING TO BE CURBED

PY161530 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Raul Prebisch, presidential advisor on economic affairs, spoke on matters related to his field. Prebisch, an outstanding economist, said that the nation is not clearly aware and does not quite grasp how serious the country's situation is. Prebisch said that to reverse the present situation, it is necessary to reduce the [word indistinct] of proper functions since the huge public spending generates inflation. He said, however, that it was clear that personnel could not be laid off as long as the economy is not reactivated.

Prebisch went on to say that the reactivation would be achieved by reducing military expenditures, atomic energy expenditures, and the purchase of assets by the state.

In response to a question referring to monetary controls, Prebish stated that the latter must be macro-economic ones allowing the markets to operate without interference.

Prebisch also stressed that another problem plaguing capitalism is the ambiguity of technology which, on one hand, reduces production costs but, on the other, contaminates and wastes natural resources. In this regard, Prebisch said that these problems are not corrected by the markets. In stating that generally the currency was overvalued, Prebisch termed the foreign trade policy inconsistent since restrictions were imposed on imports when the foreign debt could not be paid.

JUSTICIALIST BOARD REJECTS TIES WITH RADICALS

PY151656 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Apr 84 p 13

[Text] (NA) -- The Justicialist national board has decided that Peronism "should be an alternative to and not a partner to" the Radical administration's economic policy, thus ruling out any possibility of forming a coalition government, party sources said yesterday. The decision, reportedly made at last Friday's board meeting, was taken so as not to have to "share a possible failure" of the Radical programme, the sources added.

Likewise, the board's request to postpone talks with the government until former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron returns is only an "excuse" to gain time until the nation's economic path becomes clearer. Mrs Peron's return was confirmed by Pedro Arrighi, head of the former president's liaison committee, who said she will return "sometime in May, without a doubt," in order to "contribute in solving the national crisis."

Board secretary-general Manuel Quindimil yesterday said the party would request the use of the national radio network to publicize a statement it will present President Raul Alfonsin when the party leaders meet. [as published]

SPLIT IN B.A. PROVINCE PERONIST PARTY AVOIDED

PY132240 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- At the end of a lengthy session which lasted until the early hours of yesterday morning, the Justicialist Party of the Province of Buenos Aires managed to prevent a split which threatened to divide the party legislators. The conflict became acute when two deputies criticized the manner in which the Justicialist policy in the province was conducted by party president Argentino Zaracho, a supporter of Hermino Iglesias. The latter, who is a party council member, yesterday denied there had been any break among the deputies and added that all the legislators were free to voice their personal opinions on party problems.

MONTONEROS MEETING, 'LEBANIZATION' LINK DENIED

PY152240 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1232 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (NA) -- The interior minister has stated that the report on an alleged meeting which was reportedly held last weekend between Montoneros and ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] leaders is absolutely groundless. A high-ranking Interior Ministry source added that it "is not true that we have in our hands the conclusions of that meeting. We can voice assurances that the meeting did not take place." Moreover, the source stressed the fact that the government "is in a perfect situation" to control acts of this nature and "any other which may involve a possible subversive outbreak."

The official statement was released last night after an article in the morning newspaper LA NUEVA PROVINCIA of Bahia Blanca stating that terrorist leaders reportedly held a meeting "somewhere" in Cordoba Province. According to the newspaper, in that alleged meeting the terrorist leaders reportedly coordinated "a plan of action" to reactivate the action of these terrorist groups.

The report that the government possesses the "conclusions" of that meeting is linked to rumors that SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] Director Roberto Pena reportedly presented a very thick folder to President Raul Alfonsin.

According to these reports, which could not be confirmed, the report presented 2 hours before the president's departure for the ceremony in Villa Adelina, forced President Alfonsin to put aside his official speech and discuss instead the theory of "Lebanization" in Argentina.

According to the same sources, Pena reportedly presented proof to the president of "some destabilizing maneuvers" which these organizations will reportedly carry out. The meeting between Alfonsin and Pena had reportedly taken place 2 hours before the beginning of the ceremony in Villa Adelina.

The truth is that the president did not tell anyone his decision to make changes in the speech he made in Villa Adelina, and thus the Press Secretariat of Casa Rosada had to withdraw from circulation all copies of the original speech noting that it did not coincide with the words heard over the radio. A high-ranking government source has stated that "only Alfonsin knows the reason he decided to change his speech at the last moment."

The same sources have stated that on presenting the danger of a "Lebanization" in contrast to the national unity requested by the government, the president was making "a warning not to the domestic, but to the foreign front." The sources added that the government, and obviously the president, are concerned over the situation, but that by no means does it represent an alarm that could lead to the theory of an immediate "Lebanization."

In sum, government circles have reported that the gist of the Monday speech "did not imply the warning against a struggle among brethren, but among banners which are not ours, as has happened in Lebanon since 1975." The government sources have insisted on the fact that "the president never thought that the use of that term would raise such a rumpus."

COMMUNISTS WANT NATIONAL FRONT ORGANIZED

PY131720 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1302 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA) -- The Communist Party has urged the government to make "a call to all popular and democratic political parties to make up a great national front to face the enemies of the country who are showing signs of reorganizing." The Communist Party also expressed its concern "over the course of current negotiations" with the IMF on the refinancing of the Argentine foreign debt and over remarks made by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at meetings with officials of the U.S. Department of State.

These remarks were made during a press conference held by members of the Communist Party Central Committee: Fernando Nadra, Oscar Arevalo, Jesus Mira, and Jorge Bergstein. During this conference they announced that a rally will be held on Saturday, 14 April, at the Palermo Lakes park.

The Communist leaders stated that "the use of salaries as a variable indexation factor is worrisome, in addition to an attempt to unload again on the much-burdened shoulders of the workers the consequences of the economic crisis, the responsibility for which falls directly on the North Americans and the oligarchy."

SILES FACING SEVERE OPPOSITION TO PACKAGE

PY170327 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2049 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 16 Apr (TELAM) -- Accused of having betrayed the people, and facing a deadline, next Monday, to review the economic measures which he implemented last Thursday, President Hernan Siles Zuazo currently has to deal with severe opposition from workers whose leaders control the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which has almost finished preparations for tomorrow's scheduled protest marches, which are to take place throughout the country, against the government's economic plan.

The decision to stage protest marches was reached after 10 hours of discussions at a meeting held last night amid an atmosphere of severe tension. At this meeting the leaders of the COB had to make efforts to curb the demands of the rank and file who wanted an immediate and indefinite strike.

A crucial role in this was played by leader Filemon Escobar and Juan Lechin Oquendo who explained the risks posed by a general and indefinite strike in the wake of a nationwide 84-hour stoppage ordered after the government announced its economic measures. The stoppage is to end at midnight today and it was feared that another strike could prompt politicians and military officers of the extreme right to embark on coupist adventures.

The top leaders of the COB turned down President Siles Zuazo's offer of dialogue and forced instead an agreement that their own economic plan be discussed with the chief executive. This plan calls for the workers participation in government, which was already proposed last year, when the president sidestepped it.

The main objections of the workers to the government plan -- which brought up the prices of foodstuffs, increased transportation and fuel prices between 100 and 600 percent, and devalued the currency 400 percent bringing up the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar from 500 to 2,000 Bolivian pesos -- are based on the claim that it is the result of IMF demands for these drastic measures in order to allow Bolivia to pay off its foreign debt, which amounts to $4.4 billion.

It is worth pointing out that among other measures ordered by the COB the leaders of the mining sector reported that the workers of Huanuni, the largest tin mine in the country, will march to the main square of La Paz tomorrow in order to stage a hunger strike designed to force the government to review its economic plan. This action could be taken up by other mineworkers, which would increase the significance of this aspect of the protest.

Meanwhile, plagued by a recessionary economic situation which the president himself termed disastrous, the government is currently floundering with little, if any, success amid a maelstrom of demands from all sectors which have raised tensions to such heights that unless a solution capable of at least partially satisfying everyone is reached, the situation could have unfathomable consequences.

Siles Zuazo is hardly unaware of this possibility and he also realizes that the upcoming discussions of the economic plan of the COB would give rise to a rapprochement to the labor leadership. Thus, the next few hours will be of crucial importance for the fate of his administration.

Negative Reactions

PY131944 [Editorial Report] La Paz Cadena Panamericana on 13 April in it regular 1700 GMT newscast carried several items on national reaction to the new economic package issued by the government on 12 April.

In a relay from the Llallagua mining district, an unidentified Cadena Panamericana correspondent reported that "after a long meeting, Siglo XX mineworkers decided to declare the Democratic and Popular Unity government an enemy of the mineworkers union and issued orders to strike for 72 hours."

In a relay from the Huanuni mining district, the Panamericana correspondent reported that during a mineworkers meeting, called by the local mineworkers union, the latter harshly criticized the government for issuing the new economic package. In a recorded excerpt of the meeting, a Huanuni mineworkers union leader declared the "mobilization of Huanuni miners who will march to La Paz and hold a fast until their demands are met." He also demanded that the government increase salaries by 300 percent, so that they would be in proportion with the new economic measures. The union leader also requested that "in keeping with the Constitution, Hernan Siles Zuazo should be removed from the government, since he no longer has the support of his people."

Panamericana announcers also reported that the La Paz Factory Workers Federation has called a general strike to repudiate the new economic measures. They added that a factory workers union leader described the new economic package as "unpopular and antilabor measures, since they are in keeping with IMF regulations."

In a relay from Potosi, a Panamericana correspondent reported that local labor federations today sponsored a demonstration throughout the downtown area to repudiate the UDP government which they said should resign, since it has betrayed the will of the people who brought it to power. The corresondent added that Potosi shops, supermarkets, government offices, and local banks were closed. He noted that like private business and government offices, schools were also closed. He reported that the Potosi civic committee has issued a statement in which it categorically repudiates the new economic package and charges that the government has betrayed the Bolivian people.

The correspondent also noted that a statement issued by the local branch of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, which is headed by Paz Estenssoro, expresses its solidarity with its leader and demands Siles Zuazo's resignation.

Finally, the reporter stated that the Potosi COB branch has called an immediate emergency meeting and a general stoppage for this afternoon, and that the situation in the city is calm.

Panamericana announcers stated that a poll carried out by Cadena Panamericana shows that the majority of those polled reacted negatively to the government's economic measures. Announcers reported that the poll shows that people believe the new economic measures are necessary but that the low-income sectors are carrying the heaviest burden of these measures.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO REPLIES TO COB LETTER

PY171720 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] In reply to a letter sent yesterday by the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], President Hernan Siles Zuazo has sent a letter. Siles' letter, which is addressed to the COB Executive Board, reads as follows:

Dear Comrades, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 April 1984, reporting to the executive branch on the decision made at the national meeting held by the COB Executive Board concerning the measures taken within the government's economic program. Legal instruments covering some of these measures have been approved during a cabinet meeting on 12 April.

The executive branch deems it important to emphasize that it is acting in strict compliance with the provisions of Articles 2 and 96 of the Constitution, which is shown by the fact that it is responsibly coping with the economic crisis plaguing the country and its people and by implementing measure it has deemed necessary.

The nation is aware that the crisis affecting the entire country is nothing but the result of many years and many governments, which allowed the crisis to progress until it reached the present height, since those governments represented interests alien to the interests of the nation.

This situation could not last much longer. Therefore, and taking into account what this situation implies as a whole, the executive branch has tackled the demanding task of directly coping with the causes which spark inflation, since the latter leads to anguish, to staples being in short supply, to products being smuggled out over our borders, and to a speculative economy which is beyond all control, an economy which is dangerously threatened by [word indistinct] the usual crimes.

Based on these facts, I would like to definitely state that the executive branch will continue defending the interests of the national (?economy), implementing the policies appropriate for the present circumstances in order to overcome the crisis and defeat inflation and its disastrous consequences. This, however, does not prevent the cabinet and the ministers from initiating constructive talks concerning the proposals contained in the COB social and economic emergency program, which was submitted to us in August 1983, in order to include in the government program whatever may be reconcilable with its policy of economic recovery.

I am certain that [word indistinct] may be taken into account and incorporated into the government's policy, since many of them have already been put into practice. I have, therefore, given instructions to the cabinet to contact the COB and to deal immediately with what is requested in the second paragraph of your letter.

With my best regards, Hernan Siles Zuazo, president of the Republic.

UNION LEADER LECHIN SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PY171833 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Juan Lechin Oquendo has resigned from his post as executive secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB]. This information was supplied to Cadena Panamericana by Justo Perez, who is also a member of the FSTMB. Since the FSTMB Executive Board cannot [words indistinct], it is the rank and file who are dealing with Lechin's resignation, Perez stated.

[Begin Perez recording] Our federation cannot deal with it, because this letter is directly addressed to all the workers. There are no rules set by the FSTMB. During a general meeting, the executive secretary is directly elected by the workers, that is, by the [word indistinct] labor unions. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT WARNS PROTESTERS MARCHING TO BRASILIA

PY180011 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Planalto Palace released the following official note this afternoon:

In a message to the nation, President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo yesterday expressed to the Brazilian people his willingness to amend the Constitution, in compliance with the desire of the people. The president stated: We are going to amend it, but we must amend it with responsibility, with security, and with tranquillity. Consistent with this position, President Figueiredo urged all Brazilians, especially the country's political leaders, to seek a negotiated solution to political disagreements, to seek understanding and conciliation so that the political opening will continue without incidents.

For the past few days, the country has been witnessing public demonstrations ostensibly organized by groups of militants whose ideology is incompatible with our constitutional order. Following organized mobilization plans, the demonstrators openly seek to coerce and intimidate Brazilian congressmen to vote for a preestablished proposal.

The federal government feels that this procedure is an intolerable attempt to coerce members of the legislative branch, and recalls that according to the provisions of the federal Constitution, the executive branch, and particularly the president of the Republic, has the obligation to guarantee the free exercise of the legislative branch. The federal government warns the Brazilian nation against the seriousness of the situation which is planned for the federal capital, specifically to coerce members of the National Congress.

Aware of its constitutional duties, the federal government warns the members of the caravans from different points of the nation intending to go to Brasilia that it has the power to preserve the freedom and autonomy of the legislative branch, preventing and rejecting actions designed to prevent the free deliberation of congressmen elected by popular vote.

The current situation demands consideration and good judgment to allow the nation to walk toward conciliation and understanding.

Opposition Reacts to Note

PY180326 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Leaders of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], PDT [Democratic Labor Party], and PT [Workers Party], consider the official government note a preparation for the adoption of emergency measures in Brasilia and in other regions of the country.

PMDB leader Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes has stated that the adoption of emergency measures will be an arbitrary decision, an act of force, in an attempt to defeat the people. He expressed surprise over the fact that the executive branch had disregarded an order and closed the Congress in the past, and is now expressing its concern over the freedom and autonomy of the legislative branch.

A member of the group for direct elections of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], Deputy Humberto Souto, stated that notes of this nature constitute a real pressure on Congress and congressmen, which can be considered a threat.

CHAVES REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY142352 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Brasilia (DAILY POST) -- Vice President Aureliano Chaves Friday reaffirmed in unequivocal terms that he was fully in favor of the Direct Elections Now movement. "I want to tell you again what I have repeatedly stated," Chaves, who is temporarily the chief executive of the nation while President Joao Figueiredo is travelling abroad, said at a news conference. "I am solidly in favor of direct elections now." Chaves said "if I were a federal congressman, I would vote in favor of the Dante de Oliveira amendment." That amendment, to be voted on by Congress April 25, would re-establish direct elections this year to select the successor of Figueiredo.

Figueiredo and the PDS Party, to which Chaves belongs, officially are against the Dante de Oliveira legislation. Figueiredo plans to send an alternative measure to Congress next week upon his return from Spain. But Chaves, as well as a number of dissident PDS lawmakers, have been supporting the amendment and observers said that it is not possible to predict today if the measure will pass or not on April 25. The PDS Party leadership has asked its members to boycott the legislative session to provoke a lack of quorum on April 25 but many have said they will vote for it, thus breaking party loyalty. Some 77 PDS deputies and 24 senators would have to vote for the amendment to assure its passage.

Chaves Friday said he would not attend any of the public demonstrations planned between now and April 25 around the nation in support of the direct amendment bill. However, in Sao Paulo, Gov Franco Montoro, of the opposition PMDB, said he had invited Chaves to participate in a giant street rally to be held on Monday afternoon in Sao Paulo center. Montoro said he hoped that more people would participate in the Sao Paulo civic act than went to the Rio de Janeiro rally last Tuesday. At that rally, almost one million people were estimated to have filled the Candelaria — Av Rio Branco area of downtown Rio and the protest demonstration was considered the largest political rally in Brazil's history.

RECORD CROWD AT SAO PAULO DIRECT ELECTIONS RALLY

PY170010 Paris AFP in Spanish 2257 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, 16 Apr (AFP) -- The largest political demonstration ever held in Brazil occurred tonight in Sao Paulo with a crowd which the organizers estimated at 1,750,000 persons who called for the immediate reestablishment of a direct balloting system for the presidential elections scheduled for next January. Popular participation in this demonstration organized by all opposition political parties broke all previous records and even surpassed that of the rally staged in Rio de Janeiro on 10 April, which was attended by 1 million persons.

PMDB SENATE LEADER SLAMS FIGUEIREDO'S SPEECH

PY180108 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Apr 84

[From the congressional report section]

[Text] PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] Senate leader Humberto Lucena has stated that the president of the Republic has not understood the type of changes the people want, although he said that he had understood it in the message he sent to Congress proposing a constitutional amendment.

What the people want, Lucena stated, is direct elections now, and not within 2 or 4 years. He expressed his conviction that the National Congress will approve the amendment proposed by Dante de Oliveira on 25 April.

Without discussing the merit of the amendment proposed by the president of the Republic, Lucena mentioned two exceptions. The first refers to the reelection possibility of future presidents and the second, which refers to the power attributed to the Senate to regulate the organization of the current electoral college.

LAWYER SEES AMENDMENT AS MILITARY MANEUVER

PY180327 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro, attorney Sobral Pinto has stated that the consititutional amendment proposal sent to Congress by President Figueiredo is only a maneuver by the military leadership that is governing Brazil. Stating that now they are trying to make changes through a frightened Congress, the lawyer added that the government feels that it is complying with the demands for direct elections. Sobral Pinto has not paid much attention to the other changes provided for in the amendment, stating that during the past 20 years, approximately 100 institutional acts have been issued to meet the needs of the rulers.

MILITARY HOUSEHOLD CHIEF SEES 'REPEAT' OF 1964

PY152219 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] "They are causing riots and investing in violence. We are repating 1964 [year of the military revolution]." This concerned statement was made by Military Household Chief General Rubem Ludwig during a talk with Brazilian journalists at the Brazilian Embassy in Madrid. The general expressed his belief that beyond the calm, violence is brewing.

Ludwig condemned the word negotiation as an outcome to Brazil's problems because the word could entail bargaining. However, Ludwig expressed support for a dialogue. The minister referred to the effects of the television on the masses by saying that it is not the television itself but the people who use it for campaigning who are responsible for it. Without giving names, he mentioned specific television campaigns which, in his belief, help to promote violence.

Congressmen of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] and of the opposition, such as Lower House President Flavio Marcilio, think that Ludwig's fears are exaggerated. During a meeting in Goiania on Thursday night, seven PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] governors agreed that the direct elections amendment might be approved.

In Porto Alegre, a large group of people filled the square in front of the mayor's office to request direct elections. In attendance at the demonstration were regional opposition leaders, Governors Leonel Brizola, Franco Montoro, Jose Richa, and Iris Resend, and PMDB and PT [Labor Party] Presidents Ulysses Guimaraes and Lula, respectively.

Statement Termed Unofficial

PY161326 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Apr 84 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- During the arrival of the president of the Republic at the Brasilia air base, presidential spokesman Carlos Atila stated that "the statements made by Minister [as published] Rubem Ludwig, chief of the Military Household of the Presidency, saying that today's Brazil is like that of 1964, statements which were published by the press yesterday, are not the government's official stand." Figueiredo arrived at 1700 after a 1-week tour that took him to Morocco and Spain.

According to Atila, Ludwig's statements are not unauthorized, but rather show Ludwig's point of view which the latter revealed to the journalists during an informal talk, not an interview. "It was an exchange of opinions between Ludwig and the press which obviously does not reflect the government's stand," Atila said.

'CIA' MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS CONDEMNED

PY151939 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Self-Disapproval"]

[Excerpts] The best thing that could have happened in the case of the mines placed in Nicaraguan ports was the halting of this CIA action in the wake of the massive pressure from the U.S. Congress and of the strong protest voiced by U.S. European allies, some of which let their voices be heard in anger. Regarded as a clear violation of international law, this "act of war" against the Sandinist government had already damaged not only Nicaraguan interests but also those of other countries that have nothing to do with the Central American conflict. The CIA mines damaged eight ships sailing under different flags, including a Soviet ship (where sailors were reported wounded), and were likely to create new international incidents of unpredictable consequences.

In the end, President Reagan's strategy in Nicaragua was also damaged. This damage caused even stronger opposition to the military and financial assistance granted to anti-Sandinist forces among congressmen and Republican officials at the White House. Opposition to this assistance also grew stronger in the Senate. In this regard, the decision by Senator Barry Goldwater, who is both a symbol of the U.S. right and one of President Reagan's strongest supporters, to no longer support the administration's foreign policy is particularly significant.

Soviet condemnation has had little influence on the situation, because Moscow lacks authority to repudiate U.S. excesses after so many serious Soviet violations of international law and of the sovereignty of the peoples. Nevertheless, Washington could not disregard the disapproval of countries like Great Britain, France, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, and practically the entire Western world. In any event, U.S. democracy has taught a lesson to others. It was not precisely Chernenko who halted the unfortunate CIA action; it was the U.S. Congress, which translated the predominant thoughts of the political and ethical conscience of U.S. society.

U.S. FISHING BOAT CAPTURED, 2D MACHINEGUNNED

PY180232 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The corvette Mearim, of the northern naval patrol group, has intercepted three U.S. fishing boats fishing illegally in Brazilian waters on the coast of Amapa and captured one of them. The second boat, identified as (Doggie), managed to escape even though it was machinegunned. The third boat fled on observing the approach of the Brazilian corvette. The fourth naval district command has reported that the captured fishing boat, named Condor, is being taken to Belem, escorted by the corvette Mearim.

CORRECTION TO FIGUEIREDO OUTLINES ELECTORAL

The following corrections to the item headlined "Figueiredo Outlines Electoral Amendment," published in the 17 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages D1 and 2, are supplied from Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese of 17 April, page 4:

Page D 1, fifth paragraph, last line reads: ... certain extent imply change... (clearing indistinct word)

Page D 2, fourth paragraph, lines one through three read: ... is the task of my own, of the government, and of all congressmen who support it. It is appropriate to stop the attack unleashed against the rules of the game which have been accepted for the election of my successor. I want to ... (clearing indistinct words and adding phrase)

Page D 2, fourth paragraph, last line reads: ... indirect election as an impediment to make the ... (clearing indistinct word)

Page D 2, fifth paragraph, line four reads: ... democracy. The political opening has not been ... (changing "(?timetable)" to "opening")

Page D 2, sixth paragraph, lines one and two read: ... National Congress proposes more than what its text implies. Its approval by ... (clearing indistinct words)

Page D 2, sixth paragraph, lines five and six read: ... of other commitments which, through a consensus, could be assumed ... (clearing indistinct words and changing verb tense)

Page D 2, last paragraph, lines two through eight read: ... reconcile conflicting aspirations and to restore in the political universe the harmony we all wish. Through conciliation and commitment we will open the path to solve the problems which worry the political world and afflict society; conciliation and commitment among political adversaries and among members of the same party family. As conductor of the opening process, and responsible to a large extent for the objectives achieved, I have the authority ... (clearing indistinct words and rewording for clarity)

PRESIDENT UPBRAIDS OPPOSITION OVER DIALOGUE

PY172359 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet emphasized that the government hopes that the recent call for national reconciliation made by the Catholic Church will also be supported by opposition groups. The chief of state made these remarks during a speech in the Diego Portales Building before a group of Chilean volunteers for social action in the metropolitan area who are participating in a seminar. The ceremony was attended by leaders of this organization headed by Mrs Lucia Iriart de Pinochet.

The chief of state said that there is an open connection and complicity between those who call for peaceful protest and those who carry out violence and whose main objective is to overthrow the government. Pinochet also said that the oppositions's strategy is also aimed at converting the universities into centers of political agitation. The president emphasized that the government will not allow the universities to become centers for subversive actions. He recalled that the political opening which began in 1983 was a significant event.

[Begin Pinochet recording] The most important event of 1983 was the political opening sponsored by the government to reach an agreement [words indistinct]. With this purpose in mind, Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa began government negotiations with representatives of the democratic opposition. However, this initiative did not work out because of the stubbornness of some sectors of the opposition who are said to represent former democratic political parties. Despite the fact that these parties label themselves democratic they do not recognize the 1980 Constitution approved in a plebiscite by the majority of the people. The government began the dialogue but the opposition, in arrogance and intransigence, demanded the end of the current regime. In view of this position, it was not possible to carry out a dialogue but rather to capitulate, but our government will never capitulate. [applause] [end recording]

The president also said that the government maintains a good disposition toward dialogue. He then talked about the call made by the Catholic Church recalling the steps taken by the government for the reconciliation of the Chilean people when the government asked the people to cooperate in the discussion of important issues.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Our government will not change its permanent position in favor of dialogue, and it hopes that this will be reciprocated by the opposition groups which have withdrawn from the dialogue launched by the interior minister last September.

However, (?I am afraid) I must refute the wise remarks of the archbishop of Santiago and I am forced to point out that no true and productive dialogue can be achieved if one of the parties begins by questioning the legitimate status of the other and demands the dissolution of the government as a prerequisite to holding talks. Because of this attitude, the dialogue which we all want becomes just another tool of Marxism. Thus, the government becomes the victim because its highly moral and positive intentions are twisted around to show it as obstructing dialogue of any kind.

Dialogue will always be possible as long as the Constitution, approved in a plebiscite by the majority of the citizens, is respected and its institutions will be implemented fully, in keeping with the mandate which the people gave the Armed Forces. [end recording.

The president concluded by saying that the government's duty is to preserve order and tranquillity. He also praised the Chilean women for their efforts to prevent their children, the future of Chile, from being harmed by the very same people who tried to do it a few years ago.

MDP REJECTS ANY DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT

PY161702 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Apr 84 p C 3

[Excerpt] Yesterday the National Council of the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] rejected direct or indirect dialogue with the government in an extensive document entitled "Message to Chileans," by saying that dialogue "does not solve anything, on the contrary," it only strengthens the government.

After making an evaluation of the 27 March day of protest, which was labeled "successful," and reaffirming "the strength and power which the opposition forces have for appealing to the people when they act together" the MDP document goes on to discuss the issue of dialogue. The message points out that the call made by Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno "can only" be understood if the government declares "its decision to leave immediately."

The message adds that "there can be no dialogue" with government representatives because "a process for the real pacification of the country and for a real solution to the problems affecting" Chileans cannot be implemented unless "a definite process for the people to exercise their sovereign rights and build a democratic country is carried out."

The message also says that the government "will use dialogue with the opposition only to overcome its profound crisis." The MDP document adds that "it will not participate or lend itself in any way, directly or indirectly, to a dialogue with Pinochet" or his representatives. The MDP believes that the "only real way to find a solution" is "for the government to resign immediately" and that "the large social and political democratic sectors take over the task of building a democracy through a provisional democratic government."

COMMUNISTS ANALYZE POSITION OF ARMED FORCES

PY172346 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 84 p C 3

[Text] Yesterday leaders of the illegal Communist Party released a public letter in which they state that "the basic disagreement which currently exists in the country is not between the civilians and the military." They add that "the people do not advocate a confrontation between civilians and the military." The document entitled "Civilians or the Military, a False Dilemma," is signed by former Deputy Maria Maluenda, former Lower House Provisional President Juan Acevedo, and former Popular Unity Minister Pascual Barraza. The letter refers to the speech made by the defense minister at the Maipu church on 11 March.

The document says that the defense minister's words "might suggest that the conflict which has broken out among the Chilean people was simply caused by a confrontation between civilians and military officers. A peculiar thing about his words is that they suggest that the former are incapable of ruling over the country while the latter have a natural gift for it."

The document states later that "undoubtedly, the Armed Forces have been and continue to be the main pillar of General Augusto Pinochet's government," noting that the role assumed by the Armed Forces is similar to that of the regime.

It adds that "this fact and the outcome of the Argentine situation, which appears as a victory of civilians over the military, could lead some people to believe that the social conflict which is affecting and endangering all parts of Chile basically consists of a dispute between military institutions and the Chilean people." The document adds that "a rigorous analysis of the situation shows that this is not the cause of the dispute. The basic disagreement is not between the civilians and the military. The people are fighting for democracy and social justice and against imperialism, oligarchic groups, and both civilians and military officers, who have been at their service." It adds that "there are clear signs that the dictatorial regime has not always been made up of military officers exclusively, because, though little, the regime has had civilian support."

The letter adds that "at times, some parties and politicians seem to be seeking just the return of the military to their garrisons and their subordination to a civilian government. We do not think as they do. The military's return to their garrisons might be a necessary and inevitable measure along with the changes which must take place within the armed institutions. However, in principle the Armed Forces cannot stay away from society and from the major tasks of reconstructing the country and creating a new democratic government. Hence, it is not a question of subordination of the Armed Forces to just any civilian government but to a democratic government elected and established by the people."

In conclusion, the Communists express their disagreement with the head of state's statement to the effect that "the fate of the Armed Forces and security forces totally depends on the fate of the government." The Communists maintain that "this government is just transitory. Making the fate of military institutions depend on it implies that military institutions are also doomed to disappear. We believe that, in Chile's case, the Armed Forces must only be subjected to deep democratic transformations to put them at the service of the interests and superior values of the nation."

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT ZALDIVAR RETURNS FROM EUROPE

PY131510 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 12 Apr (EFE) -- Andres Zaldivar, the president of the World Union of Christian Democrats, today said that the Chilean Government must take the first step by submitting a specific and realistic proposal that will lead to a democratic opening in Chile.

Zaldivar returned from Europe where he signed a joint statement with the presidents of the Socialist International and the Liberal International regarding Latin America. Concerning this statement, Zaldivar said that it is a "commitment to work jointly to achieve democracy in Latin America, particularly in Central America and the Southern Cone." He added that it was also a commitment to defend human rights and to work within governments, legislatures, and countries to sensitize international public opinion to help overcome the serious economic crisis Latin America is experiencing.

On his way back from Europe, Zaldivar stopped over in Caracas where he was honored by the Venezuelan Congress, which issued a statement supporting the Chilean democratization process.

According to Zaldivar, all Chile "should make a patriotic effort to return to democracy to avoid an unnecessary and irreparable confrontation." Zaldivar also noted that it is praiseworthy for the pope to have again expressed his concern over the situation in Chile.

Wants Plebiscite on Government

PY162220 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] On being asked about the country's current situation, Andres Zaldivar, the president of the Christian Democratic International, has stated that only a plebiscite that takes into account the two alternatives -- that asks the current government to continue to rule or that asks for a change of the government -- will be able to get Chile out of its current crisis. Zaldivar gave a press conference to refer to the recent meeting of the Liberal, Socialist, and Cristian Democratic Internationals. During the course of this meeting he was asked about Chile's current situation.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] It is only the people who can resolve the country's conflict. It has to be done through a plebiscite that takes into account the alternatives. On the one hand, that of the government, which intends to remain in power until 1989, including everything that this implies, in addition to the contents of the 1980 Constitution with the application of Article 24, the exiles, the freedom given to the security organizations, the press censorship that we have to live with, and with all the types of limitations that are being imposed by this regime; and, on the other hand, the other alternative, the alternative of the people, the alternative that contains Gabriel's [Valdes] call for a democratic outlet within a reasonable period of time. An alternative that calls for a return to freedom, that allows the people to elect their authorities, that will put an end to the security organizations and arbitrary measures. [end recording]

An alternative that includes the total exercise of justice and that will put an end to censorship. Zaldivar also said that the plebiscite must be a clean one.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] Because if it is not clean, the country will continue to sink into the morass with this government. [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER: COUNTRY TO PAY ITS DEBTS

PY172321 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Apr 84 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Economy Minister Modesto Collados by Maria Eugenia Oyarzun; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Oyarzun] Do you agree with some Latin American countries that the foreign debt should not be paid?

[Collados] No, I do not. Traditionally, Chile has fulfilled its commitments and we are not going to ruin our reputation. This would not be appropriate unless the situation reaches an unacceptable level. But I do not think this will be the case. We must continue to fulfill our commitments and make the necessary arrangements so that we may be able to meet them. This would be to our benefit to secure credit. But the adoption of a "blackmail" attitude is always negative and something that is not in keeping with Chileans.

[Oyarzun] Do you think that politics is interrelated with the economy?

[Collados] From the economic point of view, I believe that the most important contribution that we will make to politics and to national reconciliation is to raise the standard of living of all Chileans. This will be the objective of our efforts. I am not going to think about political parties, but about the improvement of the standard of living of low income sectors, the improvement of real salaries, and better living conditions.

FINANCE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON DEBT, ECONOMY

PY180210 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Apr 84 second section pp 4, 5

[Interview with Finance Minister Luis Escobar Cerda by Maria Eugenia Oyarzun; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In other words, the foreign debt commitments will be fulfilled.

Answer: Here we do not have a "team" of irresponsible and inexperienced individuals who believe we should have a "spring summer" with a great reactivating program or a great feast leaving us with a tremendous headache for a long time. "There is no magic formula."

Question: A newspaper editorial expressed the hope that the state will not become the guarantor of the debt of the private banks...Answer...[escobar interrupting]: It is already the guarantor.

Question: The economy is based on confidence, both external and internal. We are facing a problem of confidence from abroad and within the country. The rules of the game are changing all the time. How can guidelines which can be fulfilled in the future be set up?

Answer: Regarding the external aspect, I hope to continue the process for renegotiating the debt. Former Minister Caceres announced a credit of $780 million to pay this year's debt. The negotiations are underway, but no agreement has yet been reached. I hope to continue until a successful agreement is reached. To do this it is necessary to reach a prior understanding with the IMF. Therefore, I hope to go through this state with a program satisfying both the Chilean Government and the IMF, and henceforth, our creditors. I am sure that with goodwill and technical discussions we can reach a satisfactory agreement for the two sides. This is possible. This is why I do not believe foreign confidence can be affected. I tend to believe that once the U.S. bankers find out who the new finance minister is, get familiar with his background and what he has accomplished, they will verify that the new minister is a man who has been in this business for many years and that he is not going to do anything unreasonable. They will find out the same thing about Minister Collados.

Question: How about the domestic level?

Answer: You are right regarding the confidence aspect, because there have been several changes. There has been a great difference between theory and practice, that is, between what is said and what is done. A lot of emphasis has been placed on a social market economy, on the subsidiary role of the government, but the country has confronted certain problems which have forced the government to intervene in or take action in certain matters.

Question: Many people wonder whether the new ministers in charge of the economic sector are in favor of statism. What are your views on this?

Answer: It is estimated that 12.5 percent of the GDP of 1984 will be invested. This is a very low percentage. But of this percentage, over 55 percent are investments derived from the public sector and 45 percent from the private sector and this is the situation after 10 years of a social market economy. This shows that there is a disagreement between theory and practice.

Moreover, you can see that because of mistakes in our domestic policy and international recession, which aggravated the latter, our financial and private sectors are in a disastrous situation, but we hope that the private sector will gradually recover through the enforcement of those measures I have already mentioned. All this has forced the government to implement basic guidelines with the objective of solving this problem.

I believe that the government has reacted with the measures that the situation called for. Moreover, some members of the economic team did not believe in the need for the government to play an active role in certain areas by noting that it was up to the market to decide. But the market did not only not resolve these problems, but also allowed them to deteriorate to unbearable political and economic levels. This is why the government intervened. There is financial freedom, but the government suggested a certain interest rate and it was better to accept this suggestion. I believe that people are not aware of the fact that by playing a subsidiary role the government is not indifferent, or that it is not adopting an aloof or passive attitude. By adopting a subsidiary role, the government wishes to grant stability to the economic system and it is willing to intervene in those activities in which the private sector either does not want to or cannot carry out a priority task in the social, economic, or political area. If the private sector can do all this on its own, this would be fantastic. But if it does not want to do it or cannot do it, it is up to the government to carry it out. This is what happened, but the government has done this very "reluctantly" [in English] and grudgingly.

Question: Which means that you favor a mixed economic system?

Answer: Of course. It is the one that is in force today. We are not in favor of statism. What we have here is a mixed economy in which, as I have already told you, today the government invests more than the private sector. Things have been done a bit late. This is what we must change in order to recover the trust of the people. I do not believe in miracles or in sudden changes. But I believe that the public will understand things gradually.

In my sector there are many problems to be solved: the intervention of banks, the economic groups, the liquidation of banks, and so forth.

Question: What is your opinion of the intervention of banks?

Answer: I have not studied the situation yet. I am going to establish an advisory work team made up of people whom I trust; I have already called on these persons, but at any rate I think that the intervention of banks should be handled on an individual basis. Each case is different.

Question: But do you believe that the economic groups did not accept the rules or that the rules were not clear enough, or that they used these rules to make deals?

Answer: I believe that all this is part of history, but, nevertheless, I believe that in the future there should not be any groups like those that are facing problems now. If we are to speak about a subsidiary role for the government, we should also grant a proportional role to economic groups. But, we cannot have economic groups as strong as the government.

Question: Whenever the economy is facing problems, ther is always an increase in taxes, or the establishment of new taxes. Do you think Chileans will be able to endure new taxes?

Answer: I do not believe in establishing new taxes. I believe that the private sector is too weak to endure a heavier tax burden. I believe that government resources should be increased by achieving an economic reactivation. If we produce more, all of us are going to earn more.

Question: What specific measures will be enforced to achieve an economic reactivation?

Answer: As I have already noted, the main specific measure is an increase in investments. We must carry out active housing and public work programs, the issuance of credits, particularly to those sectors that hire manual labor, which are mainly the small- and medium-sized businessmen. We must motivate them to use those credits that are already available in banks and which total about either 1,000 or 1,500 UF [readjustable monetary units]. Up to now, these credits have been used very little. I am going to instruct the Central Bank to promote these credit lines in a massive manner. Economy Minister Modesto Collados will do the same regarding CORDO [Production Development Corporation] credits. Through credit support and through government investments in keeping with the measures we have already discussed, that is, monetary stability and a balanced balance of payments, I believe that within a short term, we will achieve an important economic reactivation. The same will happen by granting credits to the agricultural sector. The problem I have is that I have to know how fast these measures can be implemented without causing inflation or problems in our balance of payments.

HIGH-RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESIGNS

PY172358 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Career diplomat Jose Miguel Barros unexpectedly tendered his resignation today. The high-ranking official said that he was leaving because of incompatibility and personal honor. Reasons related to personal honor and incompatibility today compelled Ambassador Jose Miguel Barros to tender his irrevocable resignation from the Foreign Ministry. Barros tendered his resignation to Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today, having served for 38 years at the Foreign Ministry where he held several very important posts including ambassador to the United States and Peru. Jose Miguel Barros also carried out special missions and participated for 8 years in the process of arbitration over the Beagle Channel. The latest position he held was head of mission in Lima, Peru. He was charged with restoring relations to the ambassadorial level in 1981. Since last year, Ambassador Barros has been acting as an adviser to the Foreign Ministry, a task which he performed at home.

We asked him about his resignation today and he said, quote, I still have a great deal to do for this country and am ready to do so. However, I will not be available for the job of a public servant who is paid for doing nothing, unquote. He indicated that room must be made for younger people who must be given a chance to do a job. He said that he was (?wasting) valuable time. He added that some people may be leaving out of frustration, others as a way of expressing protest. I believe, he stated, that there is always a combination of reasons behind every action. If what you want is a two word explanation and since I cannot say much more at this point, I would like to say that I resigned because of incompatibility and personal honor. Ambassador Barros also admitted that of late he had been offered no post in keeping with his rank and previous experience.

REPORTAGE ON PLANNED CNT GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Set for 14 April

PY132224 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Today the National Workers Command [CNT] confirmed its call for a general meeting for union leaders to be held tomorrow in the Carlos Cariola Theater. CNT members held a special meeting last night to review the scope of Edict No 8, which is in force in the emergency state zone. After the meeting ended, the CNT members concluded that Edict No 8 was only applicable to political organizations, not to trade unions. This way, the meeting scheduled for tomorrow is not covered by the edict. CNT spokesmen said that, nonetheless, in case any difficulties are encountered for holding the general meeting, the CNT is ready to take other actions, actions which are to be implemented immediately. They added that all assembly members will meet tomorrow in the Carlos Cariola Theater at 0830 [am] as scheduled.

No Permit Requested

PY141356 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The emergency zone command of the metropolitan region and San Antonio Province has reported that the National Workers Command [CNT] has not requested any permit to hold a public meeting. A communique says that no request has been received from the CNT for authorization to hold a meeting that the CNT has planned for today at the Carlos Cariola Theater. According to the recent Edict No 8, all meetings of a political nature must be authorized 10 days in advance.

Meeting Suspended

PY141427 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The meeting that had been planned by the National Workers Command [CNT], which was to have taken place in the Carlos Cariola Theater, has been suspended. The CNT leaders have decided not to hold the meeting in view of the contents of Edict No 8, which calls for the meeting's suspension. A copy of the edict was handed to labor leader (Jorge Millan) by Carabineros Major (Eugenio del Monte), of the 4th Police Precinct. (Millan) was at his place of work when he received the edict. (Millan) made this fact known to the other CNT leaders at 0830 [1230 GMT] while they were gathering in the Carlos Cariola Theater. The leaders, headed by Rodolfo Sequel, then and their decided to suspend the meeting. The 25 leaders of the CNT then went to the headquarters of the Confederation of Copper Workers [CTC] to evaluate the situation. It has been reported that they will request another authorization to hold the meeting within 10 days.

'Fights' Reported at Session

PY142057 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The National Workers Command [CNT] suspended the political and labor meeting it had planned for today. The members of the political-labor group then decided to hold a meeting behind closed doors at the headquarters of the Copper Workers Confederation [CTC]. They left the Carlos Cariola Theater, where the meeting was initially to be held, and went to the CTC office at Maciver Street. Once inside they had long and heated discussions and, according to some reports, there were even violent incidents. It was said that there were fights among the CNT leaders.

M-19 LEADERS MEET WITH PEACE COMMISSION MEMBERS

PA162005 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[By Alvaro Almanza, of EL SIGLO editorial staff]

[Text] The high command of the 19 April Movement, "M-19," has revealed to government representatives the scope of the agreement reached between this guerrilla organization and the Popular Liberation Army, "EPL," to allow a pact for a cease-fire in order to restore peace throughout the national territory.

At a meeting held at the Hotel Tequendama, M-19 leaders Ivan Marino Ospina and Alvaro Fayad Delgado explained to ranking peace commissioners Msgr Jose Luis Serna Alzate and Antonio Duque Alvarez the scope of the proposals that have been jointly submitted. It was learned that although the recent agreement reached between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and the peace commission has not been rejected, the peace commission has requested a study by the national government of the proposals that may be submitted by the other rebel organizations operating in the country.

Ivan Marino and Alvaro Fayad reiterated that the M-19 is willing to agree to a cease-fire to allow the holding of a "national dialogue" with the participation of representatives of the differnet economic, political, and social sectors of the nation. They considered of vital importance the participation of representatives of the Congress of the Republic in these talks in order to facilitate whatever measures may be needed to restore national concord. Each of the points agreed upon between the EPL and the M-19 were carefully analyzed by the M-19 leaders and the peace commissioners, who apparently will submit their report within the next few hours to President Belisario Betancur. the dialogue between the peace commissioners and the members of the guerrilla group was left open, and it is expected that new contacts will be made within the next few days, which may reveal a possible agreement between the EPL and M-19, and the representatives of the peace commission. The M-19 meanwhile noted that the agreements reached with the EPL have truly solid bases, and that therefore any agreement reached with the Peace Commission could have a multilateral nature, as it is not ruled out that the Army of National Liberation, ELN, may join the agreement.

Although peace commissioners Antonio Duque Alvarez and Msgr Jose Luis Serna Alzate declined to go into detail about the talks, it was learned that they are advancing satisfactorily, and that once the necessary measures are adopted an agreement between the national government and the revolutionary groups is almost certain.

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNORS APPOINTED -- President Betancur has announced the appointement of new governors in Antioquia, Risaralda, and Narino Departments. They are Alberto Vasquez Restrepo, German Gaviria Velez, and Alberto Diaz del Castillo. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Mar 84 pp 1 A, 8 A PA]

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED FOR 60 DAYS

PY171525 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich today reported that the government has extended for another 60-day period the state of emergency in 13 provinces in the central part of the Andean range, where security forces are countering Shining Path subversive actions.

[Begin Percovich recording] [in progress]... today the state of emergency in six provinces of Ayacucho Department, five provinces of Huancavelica, and two of Apurimao. The government has decided to extend the state of emergency in these 13 provinces. The decision was made by the Council of Ministers last Friday, and the resolution was signed today. [end recording]

SPECIAL ANTISUBVERSIVE POLICE UNIT CREATED

PY171335 Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 16 Apr (AFP) -- Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich today announced the creation of a specialized police unit to fight urban guerrillas and kidnappers.

The minister made this announcement at a time when the public is concerned at the increase in kidnappings that have been taking place in Peru during the past 3 years.

Percovich said that police officers have traveled to Europe and Israel to obtain knowledge of the methods that their forces of order use in their fight against this type of crime.

The interior minister also said that the creation of a special police unit was planned in order to combat the kidnappers and subversives more effectively.

COSTA RICAN MINISTER COUNSELOR ON NICARAGUA

FL171550 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Apr 84 (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rica's Minister Counselor of Communication and Information Armando Vargas Araya said today that Costa Rica will not recognize any Nicaraguan provisional government. He made the statement after he announced that Costa Rica will increase its participation in the Contadora Group.

Vargas Araya arrived last night in Mexico City to begin setting up the Latin American Agency for Information Services, ALASEI [Agencia Latinoamericana de Servicios Informativos]. He stressed that Contadora is the only viable means for resolving the Central American conflict, adding that the Latin American media are also responsible for breaking down the barriers of ignorance which exist among the nations of the continent.

Vargas Araya said this was why Latin American nations were going to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica in June, to establish various mechanisms which will allow for better integration through the use of the media. The Costa Rican minister reiterated that Contadora Group members reject all forms of war and violence as instruments for resolving Central America's problems.

Nevertheless, he acknowledged that ways leading toward a peaceful solution to these problems seem to be running out because of increased tensions in the region. This is why the Costa Rican Government has announced it will increase its participation in the Contadora Group, he said.

Vargas Araya denied that the peace efforts of the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama have failed. He added that we are still hopeful about avoiding a situation which would drag the region into a generalized war.

Vargas Araya also stated that at present, it has not been possible to verify stories about Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries using Costa Rican territory to harass Nicaragua. But, he did say that the two nations' border situation was very serious.

The Costa Rican minister stated that his government has 7,000 persons stationed along the 325 km border to prevent Costa Rica's territory from being used either militarily or for harassing Nicaragua.

He added that his country is making every effort to hinder anti-Sandinist forces which, taking advantage of insufficient surveillance in the area, are attacking the Nicaraguan Government.

In closing, Vargas Araya said that regarding Central America's evolving situation Costa Rica's strict and sole position is full compliance with international law.

SEPULVEDA COMMENTS ON MINING, HAGUE COURT

PA171749 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Apr 84 pp 1 A, 13 A

[By Marta Anaya]

[Excerpts] Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has held a news conference with foreign journalists in Mexico.

During the news conference the Mexican official discussed the position of his government toward the U.S. refusal to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice at The Hague in the case of the mining of Nicaragua's ports. The foreign secretary said that any state that accepts the jurisdiction of the court to try any international legal matter is committed to submitting any international legal dispute to the International Court of Justice. For this reason, he added, "it is not valid to decide in a unilateral, arbitrary, and discriminatory fashion that international law is not applicable... A state cannot whimsically remove itself from the international judicial order if that state wants to live in a de jure situation."

Sepulveda concluded his reference to the Nicaraguan subject by saying: "We should view with great sympathy" any action aimed at the total elimination of war actions against Nicaragua. Regarding the possibility of the Mexican Government helping with the "removal of the mines," Sepulveda said that Mexico is a peace-loving country "that does not have war instruments of this nature and therefore cannot engage in this type of activity."

The foreign secretary commented on a report recently published by NEWSWEEK that President Reagan had a master plan to try "to convince" President Miguel de la Madrid and his closest advisers that they should support U.S. policies in Central America. The foreign secretary said:

"It would be very bad judgment to believe that the Mexican Government would change its policy, which is based on principles, at the requests of another government."

OFFICIAL SAYS GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT ASYLUM RIGHT

FL162218 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1913 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 16 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will retain its basic principle of asylum and in the specific case of Central America, Mexico will continue to respect this postulate, according to an official of the Government Secretariat.

Fernando Elias Calles, director general of administration of that secretariat, pointed out that the right of asylum is widely recognized and it is a part of President De la Madrid's policy.

PEMEX CHIEF ON PETROLEUM DEALS WITH SPAIN

FL121520 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0040 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta said today that the association of Pemex with the Spanish company Petronor opens possibilities for selling more Pemex products in the European Common Market.

Presenting a report on his recent trip to Europe to the Energy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Beteta said that participation by Pemex in the Petronor Company is a form of saving by reinvesting profits in the expansion of the refinery.

He also pointed out the importance of the recent contract to sell 10,000 barrels per day of crude oil to Spain, which will not increase the total of the 160 million barrel quota but means that the Mediterranean petroleum company is a customer of Mexico.

Regarding the visit he made to Paris, he said that the personnel in the Pemex office there would be reduced by 50 percent and that he had reorganized the Pemex office in New York.

ORTEGA ON CONTADORA TALKS WITH U.S., CUBA

PA171311 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Interview with Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran by Unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] A diplomatic campaign that will include meetings with the Central American presidents and representatives from the U.S. and Cuban Governments will be carried out by the Contadora Group after the meeting to be held on 29 April, Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran has reported.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] At this meeting we will receive the reports that the [Contadora technical] commission will present to us. We will not be signing any agreement. At this meeting we will receive the reports, and our greatest success would be to have these reports presented, because it would be an unprecedented feat for such as important commission, such a large commission, to present a report on the scheduled date. The deadline was 30 April. Therefore, if these reports are presented on 30 April, Contadora would then immediately start preparing the final draft of the treaty. We hope these reports will be presented in a legal format, and that they will be in finished form. We would then prepare the drafts and establish a calendar for negotiation on these drafts, in order to later sign them.

After 30 April, Contadora will carry out a diplomatic campaign that is also unprecedented: The four Contadora ministers are going to visit all of the Central American countries. We will also visit Washington, the U.S. capital, Havana, to meet there with all of these leaders and obtain concrete responses to a problem that we think should be defined as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, does this diplomatic campaign include the possibility of a meeting of the Central American and Contadora Group presidents?

[Ortega] I would say that is possible, because various kinds of efforts have to be made, and for the first time the Contadora Group as a group would be meeting with the Central American presidents, the five Central American presidents, and with the representatives of the U.S. and Cuban Governments, thus resolving a problem that involves us all.

[Reporter] When do you think the peace treaty for Central America will be signed?

[Ortega] I would say that if the reports are presented on 30 April, on the date established, we would be speaking of dates that would not exceed 2 or 3 months after the presentation. I repeat -- and this of course would be after discussion with the Central Americans -- I hope that after 30 April, when the reports have been presented, we can say that in 1 or 2 months the reports [as heard] would be signed. [end recording]

NORIEGA ISSUES MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE

PA152322 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Apr 84

[Message of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, National Defense Forces commander in chief, and staff members; dated and signed in Panama City on 13 April]

[Text] Today the Panamanian Defense Forces definitely cast their lot with the Panamanian people.

Still moved by the emotion of our comrades in arms, who are the flesh and spirit of our nation, I want to express, on behalf of all the organization members and myself, our recognition for the support offered to the Defense Forces without distinction of class or race.

United on the streets, the source and proof of true democracy, the men and women of Panama have said their final word for peace and the national unity, guaranteed by the men in uniform who defend our homes and our homeland.

It will never again be possible to sow hatred and rancor in the hearts of Panamanians. It will never again be possible to try to divide our brothers.

Peace, only peace, will carry us toward a future of progress, which we have consolidated today with this demonstration of love for our homeland.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega
Commander in chief

Staff Members

Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera
Chief of Staff

Colonel Marcos Justines
Deputy Chief and G-4 of Staff

Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani
Chief of the National Traffic Directorate

Lieutenant Colonel Julian Melo Borbua
Secretary General

Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas Macias
G-1 of the General Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Julio Young
G-2 of the General Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo F.
G-3 of the General Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Purcell
G-5 of the General Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Bernardo Barrera
Chief of the Defense and Security Commission
Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell
Chief of the Panamanian Air Force
Lieutenant Colonel Eros Ramiro Cal
Chief of the Police Corps
Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo
Deputy Director, School of the Americas
Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Corro
Inspector of Military Zones
Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio Alba
Chief of the 9th Military Zone
Officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops

Panama City, 13 Apr 1984

NICARAGUA'S PASTORA DENIES NORIEGA ROLE IN VISIT

PA152345 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p 1-A

[Message to the Panamanian people and the National Defense Forces from Commander Eden Pastora G. leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE; issued in the "mountains of Nicaragua" on 25 March]

[Text] I have come upon a Panamanian newspaper clipping in which Dr Hugo Spadafora makes assertions regarding General Manuel A. Noriega.

To avoid any misunderstandings: The ARDE command, under my leadership, states that Dr Spadafora, by his own accord, is no longer a member of ARDE and that he has not been involved in any military activities since October 1983.

For myself, I wish to state that General Noriega, then a colonel, had no part in my trip or my stay in Havana, Cuba, in 1981, and that making this trip was a personal decision that resulted from political reflections. I also wish to state that the arrangements [compartimentacion] made for my trip to Panama after I left Nicaragua were in keeping with the laws which General Torrijos knew very well and were designed so as not to involve the National Defense Forces in what he considered a matter exclusively between the two of us.

Without totalitarianism or return to the past

Free fatherland or death

Commander Eden Pastora G.

"Always Sandinist"

SURVEY SHOWS BARLETTA SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF ARIAS

PA160351 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 41

[Excerpts] According to a survey carried out by the famous U.S. concern, the Public Policy Research Corporation of New York, Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta is supported by 45 percent of the Panamian people while 33 percent support Dr Arnulfo Arias.

Problems

Asked what they consider the country's most important problems at present, 76 percent of those polled said they are mainly concerned about unemployment, the high cost of living, and the housing shortage, in that order.

Young People

Regarding the distribution of voters according to age, the survey showed that 58 percent of the young people between 18 and 30 years of age support Barletta, while 26 percent support Arias. The survey also indicated that Barletta is supported by 41 percent of Panama City voters, while Arias is supported by 42 percent.

ARIAS REPORTED TO BE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS

PA161846 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Apr 84 pp 1, 36

[Excerpt] Rumors have been rampant in recent days that the leader of Arnulfism [opposition alliance candidate Arnulfo Arias] is in very poor health, and that it not only costs him great effort to walk but that he can no longer remain on his feet, hold a conversation, or pose for a photograph.

Sources close to Arnulfism have expressed concern because whenever Dr Arias must attend some political event where he must deliver a 1- or 2-minute speech, he must furtively be held by the elbows by two of his bodyguards. It has become clear that whenever Dr Arias must deliver an address, he cannot walk to the microphone, thus causing serious problems and last-minute changes, as the necessary wires must be transferred and connected to the table at which Dr Arias sits. He simply lacks the strength to remain on his feet for even a short time. He is showing the final ravages of age.

BARLETTA ANNOUNCES UNADE PLATFORM, RAPS ARIAS

PA160232 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] This is a report from Las Tablas. Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, UNADE [National Democratic Union] presidential candidate, today criticized the opposition alliance in a speech delivered before about 10,000 people who gathered at a square in Las Tablas.

Barletta discussed declarations by the Deomcratic Opposition Alliance headed by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who said that the first thing he would do should he assume the presidency would be to change the Constitution. Barletta said these plans are not exactly the best considering the country's current situation, harshly criticizing the opposition alliance by pointing out that it has not presented any platform during public appearances.

Barletta delivered a 25-minute speech which was interrupted numerous times by UNADE supporters' applause. During his speech Barletta indicated that people want to maintain peace, progress, and a stable democracy. He discussed the needs of Los Santos Province, including support for its production capability, and the problems encountered in the implementation of the irrigation projects in the La Villa, Boria, and Tonosi Rivers.

Berletta announced the UNADE platform regarding the Los Santos Province and said that UNADE is certain of victory. He said he is confident he will asssume the presidency on 11 October.

ONLY REGISTERED CITIZENS TO BE ALLOWED TO VOTE

PA142311 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Apr p 10 A

[Communique released by the Electoral Tribunal of the Republic of Panama on 11 April, signed by Dr Everardo E. Tomblinson, secretary general of the Electoral Tribunal; uppercase passages published in boldface]

[Text] The undersigned, secretary general of the Electoral Tribunal, duly authorized by the institution's magistrates, informs the public that the names of citizens who in 12 December 1982, the day of the IV Electoral Census, were registered away from their homes, did not have their personal identification cards, were abroad, or did not before 30 December 1983 legalize their inclusion in the Electoral Registry, availing themselves of the mechanisms provided by the Electoral Tribunal, WILL NOT appear on the Final Up-Dated Electoral Registry and will therefore NOT be able to exercise their rght to vote.

BRIEFS

FDN PURCHASES TANKS -- London (DPA) -- The UK specialized magazine JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY reported yesterday that Argentina has sold 60 intermediate-class TAM taks to Panamanian Defense Forces. The TAM weighs 30.5 tons, attains a speed of 75 km per hour, and is equipped with a 105-mm, German-made cannon and two 7.62-mm machineguns. [Summary] [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 1 A PA]

NEW AMBASSADOR -- Panama's new ambassador to the Republic of China is Jose Maria Serrano. Ambassador Serrano presented a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung, and later presented the credentials to President Chiang Ching-kuo. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 22 PA]

COSTA RICA

OFFICIALS DISCUSS SITUATION ON NICARAGUAN BORDER

Security Council Cited

PA171417 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Costa Rican Security Council believes there will be more fighting in San Juan del Norte. The foreign minister said there is no agreement on the Nicaraguan situation. The Security Council said that our country will not get involved in the domestic situation in Nicaragua. Costa Rica has denied that our country was the starting point for the attack on San Juan del Norte.

Ministry on Nicaraguan Charges

PA180302 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] In a new note sent to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry, the Nicaraguan regime has denounced the existence of Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, camps at the mouths of the San Juan and Sarapiqui Rivers. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez sent the note to the Public Security Ministry so that an investigation can be carried out and the necessary information supplied in order to answer the note before noon tomorrow.

With tomorrow's answer to the Managua Government, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry will end an exchange of notes with the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. The exchange of notes has been described in diplomatic circles as extremely difficult.

In addition, Gutierrez said that Costa Rica does not deem it timely to recognize the legal status of the territories liberated by ARDE forces until requirements prescribed by international law are met. The first condition deals with stability of control over the territory. It is still too soon to consider this, Gutierrez said. Gutierrez said it is very difficult to determine when conditions of international law for this recognition are fulfilled. The current conditions, under which the counterrevolutionary group headed by Pastora controls a sizable part of the territory in Nicaragua's south, do not necessarily mean that Costa Rica will recognize this territory.

Gutierrez said that his government is not considering responding to Pastora's announcement on establishing a provisional government headed by Alfonso Robelo. The Costa Rican Government will wait for the situation to be clarified. This does not agree with declarations made by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, who hinted at the possibility that his government will recognize the territory under ARDE control.

Refugee Flow Said Halted

PA172145 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2032 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican authorities have announced that for the past week no Nicaraguan refugees have entered the country through the Boca Tapada border post, due to an order from Eden Pastora, military leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE).

According to unofficial statements, Pastora prohibited the departure of persons from the territory under his control because he needs all of the people to work on production and defense of the area of more than 6,000-square km under his control.

Pastora says that he plans to establish a "democratic revolutionary government" to administer this territory, a region that extends from the Atlantic to Lake Nicaragua -- a stretch of 110 km -- and from the San Juan River to the Maiz River, 60 km deep. The police detachment in Los Chiles, another area where the refugees used to enter, has reported that no Nicaraguans have appeared again trying to enter Costa Rica.

GUTIERREZ SUPPORTS DEPUTY GOVERNMENT MINISTER

PA162015 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said he morally and effectively supports Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon, who is also in charge of the Rural Guard's General Directorate.

Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega has accused Chacon of receiving dollars from the U.S. Government to help counterrevolutionary groups fighting against the Managua regime.

Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that he has known Chacon for many years and considers him a straight and honest man with high moral values, who would not accept money for this purpose. Gutierrez said that Deputy Minister Chacon defends the principles of neutrality proclaimed by the Costa Rican Government.

EL SALVADOR

FPL TAKES CREDIT FOR SECURITY CHIEF'S DEATH

PA172053 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 20

[Text] The central command of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, last night claimed responsibility for the assassination of Alfredo Zapata, chief of security in the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. It indicated that he was "executed" because "he had become a henchman of the Yankees and a leader of the death squads."

This was said in an FPL communique that was sent to the news media last night, thus solving the mystery about those responsible for the action which occurred at 0645 on Los Heroes Boulevard near the Camino Real Hotel.

Other details of the assassination of the former chief of the criminal investigations section of the National Police indicate that his assassins attacked him from the front and back, seriously wounding his wife, Mrs Yolanda de Zapata, and slightly injuring their daughter, Glendora Zapata. Glendora was not shot but was injured by the glass from Zapata's car.

The FPL central command accused the former police chief of being at the service of the United States and of acting as leader of the death squads. This was stated in a communique sent to San Salvador's news media. Other details indicate that this group of the FPL had not carried out any actions in San Salvador recently. Judicial authorities yesterday examined the body of Alfredo Zapata, former security chief of the Sheraton Hotel.

CCE MEMBER ON THREATS, U.S. EMBASSY PROTECTION

PA171638 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Telephone interview granted by Dr Jaime Trabanino Llovel, alternate member of the Central Electoral Council, CCE, representing Democratic Action; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] It has been learned that the death squads that operate in this country have threatened every CCE member. Is this true?

[Trabanino Llovel] I do not know anything about such a situation. The other council members and I are working and thinking about our country first, about resolving the country's situation and again achieving peace and economic reactivation. We want our country to be like it used to be. That is my sincere opinion. I know nothing about what you have just asked.

[Reporter] We have also been told that since the CCE members have been threatened, the U.S. Embassy has decided to protect both the CCE members and the CCE facilities. What can you tell us about this?

[Trabanino Llovel] Concerning that, I would say the following: Frankly I think the U.S. Embassy has no business providing protection here in the CCE, as this is a Salvadoran organization. We Salvadorans must resolve our problems. I know nothing of this; I have not seen any U.S. Embassy official protecting me. In addition, I don't think we would accept it because this is a problem among Salvadorans, you understand?

[Reporter] Sure. Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLY DECISION ON VOTING LIST DETAILED

PA170438 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] With 31 votes, 3 parties, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA, and the National Conciliation Party, PCN, last night eliminated the voters list through reform of the transitory electoral law, so that the voters need only to present their identification cards to vote on 6 May. The session was installed after calling a deputy in from a coffee shop so that a quorum could be obtained.

The decision was made in the absence of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, which before the beginning of the session fought against debate of this point, since it said that the Central Electoral Council [CCE] should at least be heard as it is in charge of the elections and acting behind its back would be to ignore it and underestimate its work. The Democratic Action party did not attend the session because it said that this decision was an attack on the law and on the credibility of the process. It was learned that Genero Pastore of the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS, received threats and that is why he did not attend the session.

The session opened at 1800 after some telephone consultations by Maria Julia Castillo [president of the assembly]. However, when the roll call took place, only 30 deputies were present so another deputy who had left the room had to be called. He arrived as the roll call was ending.

Two points were essential in ARENA's draft of the decree, though other reforms were included such as finger printing three, rather than just one, of the voter's fingers. It was stated that the objective was the elimination of the voting list, because even though the registry is an essential condition for the exercise of suffrage it can be exercised by just presenting the identification card. According to some supporters of the motion, they were also interested in establishing that "electoral propaganda be carried out only by the contending political parties and that these parties should be involved in the aspects of vigilance and supervision in this election."

The PDC had put forth a draft that was not accepted. It was explained that if the intention was simply to favor the citizens whose names are not on the lists, the entire registry need not be eliminated since this detracts credibility from the process, countermands the authority of the CCE, and leads to other consequences. In view of this, the PDC proposed reforms of Article 1 of the Electoral Law, maintaining the voters list but establishing that "if the name of the person seeking to vote is not on the list but his identification card is included in the corresponding numbers of the board or if the name is similar to that on the list, the board would permit him to vote. The complete name of the voter and the number of identification card must then be added to the appropriate list." The motion to reform the transitory Electoral Law was approved without having to go through formalities.

BISHOP REPORTS 87 KILLINGS DURING WEEK

PA162025 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] San Salvador Bishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas today reported during his Sunday homily in San Salvador that 87 Salvadorans were killed this past week. Msgr Rivera y Damas reported that the FMLN caused the Army 34 casualties and that 37 persons were killed in operations and clashes in combat areas. The bishop added that 3 civilians were killed during the FMLN occupation of the village of San Sebastian, that the death squads killed 11 others, and that on 11 April the prisoners were mistreated in Santa Cruz Michapa, where a married woman and a little girl were also raped.

Msgr Rivera y Damas criticized the fact that threats have become the order of the day during the electoral campaign -- threats against those who vote and those who do not vote, pressuring people to vote for one political party -- and threats against individuals are part of the violence that can generate more violence, he added. Guerrillas occupied several radio stations this week and broadcast statements opposing the elections he noted. Msgr Rivera y Damas also stated that those who issue threats or cause damage are going against all principles of freedom, and he said it was unfortunate that a member of the central Electoral Council had to leave the country because he was reportedly threatened by the death squads.

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

FMLN Claims Forces Advance

PA151647 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Attention: The military revolutionary units of the FMLN are advancing in the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. A report from this front indicates that on Thursday, 12 April, at 1900, FMLN units from the Carlos Arias Battalion occupied enemy positions in El Jiote, strategic canton, and these were the results:

Our forces seized 16 Mauser rifles, 2,000 rounds for these rifles, took 15 prisoners of war, and inflicted 3 dead on the enemy. El Jiote canton is between Guayabal and San Martin, only a few kilometers from San Salvador, the capital. In only 5 minutes of combat, the Civil Defense soldiers surrendered, thus demonstrating the low morale of the enemy. Our forces withdrew without suffering any casualties. The Carlos Arias Battalion fighters demonstrated their ability for encirclement operations and their readiness for hand-to-hand combat.

This report was sent by Commander Dimas Rojas and Companero Young. The report is signed by Commander Pedro Guerra Alegria.

Las Animas Attacked

PA162125 San Salvador YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Leftist guerrillas attacked a small civilian defense post over the weekend at the village of Las Animas, jurisdiction of San Martin, 20 km east of San Salvador. First reports confirmed this Sunday by our news department say that 3 civilian defense members died in the guerrilla attack, and the rebel took 15 prisoners from the civilian defense post. The rebels' clandestine broadcasts heard today at noontime in the capital claimed they had taken 12 rifles and 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

FMLN: Army Troops Ambushed

PA162112 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Attention, attention, Salvadoran people. There is fighting in San Vicente Department, and enemy troops are being harassed and (?cornered) by our guerrilla forces at this very moment. Yesterday, Sunday 15 April, members of the FMLN ambushed troops of the 3d Infantry Brigade who were traveling on the Pan-American Highway. Our forces started the ambush as the enemy troops were passing through the sector known as El Junquillal, and heavy fighting ensued. The fighting was still going on this morning.

Preliminary reports sent by the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front reveal the enemy has suffered a sizeable number of casualties, and a section has been dealt overwhelming blows. We repeat, preliminary reports received from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front reveal the enemy has suffered a sizable number of casualties. The dead and wounded include a lieutenant and many soldiers, who have been rescued from the battlefield in private vehicles.

Further on Ambush

PA162044 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2020 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran guerrillas today killed 30 soldiers and an officer in an ambush on a 100-man military convoy in the central San Vicente Department. The attack was staged at approximately 0730 (1330 GMT) in San Felipe canton on the Pan-American Highway. A ranking officer of the San Vicente Brigade told ACAN-EFE over the telephone that 1 officer and 30 soldiers were killed in the attack, and 8 soldiers were wounded. The number of guerrilla casualties is not yet known, but the bodies of two rebel fighters were found at the scene of the attack. The soldiers were coming from San Miguel, the largest city in eastern El Salvador. One of the trucks carrying the soldiers could be seen on the highway, completely destroyed.

The guerrillas had set up a barricade 5 km before the spot where the ambush took place, on an unpaved section of the Pan-American Highway. The name and position of the dead officer have not yet been disclosed. This is the third serious ambush suffered by the Army in the past 30 days.

FMLN Claims Army Casualties

PA170116 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Attention, attention, Salvadoran people: A great victory was achieved by the FMLN in San Vicente Department. We repeat: The FMLN has achieved another great victory in San Vicente Department. Here is the military information sent by the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front:

Today, 16 April, between 0700 and 0800, members of the 3d Infantry Brigade traveling toward San Salvador were ambushed by units of the (Luis Adalberto Diaz) Military Detachment and the Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalion of the FMLN, near the cantons of El Junquillal and Copinol, on the Pan-American Highway, in the area of San Vicente Department. As a result of this successful ambush, the enemy suffered 45 casualties, including 30 dead; the casualties include Lieutenant Nunez Franco. Our revolutionary units took 31 M-16 rifles, lots of ammunition, and war supplies. It is reported that our military forces kept at bay reinforcements from the 5th Infantry Brigade. The enemy Air Force also participated in clashes on the Pan-American Highway sector in San Vicente Department, but it was completely useless. We are told that the puppet army's wounded were transferred in private trucks to San Vicente. Two of these trucks were destroyed by our revolutionary units.

COPREFA Admits Ambush

PA170038 Paris AFP in Spanish 0008 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Apr (AFP) -- Thirty-seven Salvadoran Army troops were killed and 14 wounded when they were ambushed by guerrillas in San Felipe, San Vicente Department, some 75 km east of the capital, official sources have confirmed. A spokesman for the San Miguel garrison, Sublieutenant Armando Nunez, confirmed the report, noting that the military convoy was ambushed in San Felipe while traveling on the Pan-American Highway. The Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) also admitted the report in San Salvador, although it indicated that 34 soldiers were killed. COPREFA also added that an operation was launched today in pursuit of the insurgents, who also sustained many losses.

FMLN ALLEGES ARMY ATROCITIES AGAINST CIVILIANS

Grenade Hurled at Peasants

PA151540 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] An Army soldier from the 5th Infantry Brigade threw a fragmentation grenade at the home of a peasant family near San Cayetano Istepeque, San Vicente Department. According to reports, he had first gone to the house and demanded money and a watch while threatening to throw the grenade. Since no money or watch was given to the soldier, he threw the grenade at the house. The grenade caused much destruction and several persons were wounded. This was a report from San Vicente Department.

Peasants Said Murdered

PA172135 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Excerpts] While Duarte was speaking of human rights and D'Aubuisson was offering lands, 63 peasant workers were being slain near Guazapa Hill in a bloody massacre between 3 and 6 April. Seven more were killed in Llano El Rancho, two in Las Delicias, and three in El Zapote.

Attention, Salvadoran people. At El Copino canton, the dictatorship's troops did not want to spend the sacred ammunition that old man Ronald Reagan sends them. Some were killed and burned with acid. Of those murdered, 18 were under 15 years old.

GUATEMALA

REBELS KILL EIGHT ARMY ENGINEERS IN AMBUSH

PA141635 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Subversives today at 0710 ambushed members of the Army Engineering Corps working on the construction of a bridge over the (Salval) River. The attack was carried out with small arms fire following the explosion of several Claymore mines as the soldiers passed by. The action took place between the towns of San Lucas and (Salval), (Ixtampan) municipality, El Quiche Department, on the new road over the Salval River, which will link several villages in Playa Grande. As a result of the attack, eight members of the Engineering Construction Company of the Army's Engineering Corps were killed.

GUERRILLA GROUP TRIES TO SEIZE MUNICIPALITY

PA151744 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- According to official sources, in the past 24 hours a guerrilla group has tried on two occasions to seize a municipality of San Marcos Department, in southwest Guatemala. The rebels yesterday morning tried to seize the seat of the municipality of Pajapita, but they were repelled by civil defense patrols, which, according to the sources, inflicted several casualties on the attackers, who took their wounded with them.

The civil defense patrols have called on Guatemalan Army forces in anticipation that the leftists would attack again, which actually happened last night, and again the government forces were able to repel the attack. Following the subversive attacks, Army and civil defense patrols mounted a pincers operation to dislodge the guerrillas from the area and to keep them from crossing the border to Mexico.

In recent days, the guerrillas have increased their activities in the country's southwestern region, thus forcing the Army to strengthen its military bases in that region to check the antigovernment rebels.

HONDURAS

ARMY PRACTICES AIRPORT ASSAULT WITH U.S. TROOPS

WA171953 Rome IPS in English 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, April 13 (IPS) -- Honduran and American troops parachuted into and "captured" a U.S.-built military airport in central Honduras today as part of the "Granadero I" ("Grenadier I") joint military exercises.

Troops from the 193d Infantry Brigade joined Honduran soldiers in the exercise at the Aquacate Airport in Olancho Province, which officials described as training for a surprise attack on an enemy airport to set up an operations base. Aquacate is one of six airports built in Honduras by the U.S. military during the joint maneuvers which began last year with the "Big Pine I" exercises.

The maneuvers are seen as a show of U.S. military might against the Sandinist government in Nicaragua, Honduras' southern neighbor, and the insurgents in El Salvador, which borders Honduras on the west. A later phase of "Granadero I," to begin in late May, will take place near the Honduran-Salvadoran border, close to eastern Salvadoran regions controlled by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels.

Troops from both participating countries parachuted from Hercules C-130 planes, American military aircraft which are now a common sight over many Honduran towns.

A Honduran Army spokesman said the joint exercises have demonstrated the capacity of special Honduran and American troops to deploy at extremely short notice and carry out operations under realistic conditions.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS

Discusses Contadora in Spain

PM131203 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 10 Apr 84 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Honduran Foreign Minister in Madrid Urges Europe To Support Contadora"]

[Excerpt] Madrid -- Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica in Madrid yesterday condemned the laying of mines in Nicaragua's ports because "the use of force to resolve Central America's problems" is not valid. But he recalled at the same time Sandinist Commander Humberto Ortega's recent threats "to mine all the ports in the area." The Honduran foreign minister, who held a 2-hour conversation with Prime Minister Gonzalez last Friday, called for every kind of political pressure from the European countries to ensure that the Contadora Group's peace proposals receive maximum international support.

The Honduran foreign minister denied that the Contadora countries (Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia) have condemned the Honduran-U.S. joint maneuvers. These maneuvers, he explained, are in conformity with the agreements between the two countries signed in 1964, and are not inconsistent with the peacemaking plans put forward in the Contadora. However, he admitted that they have been more frequent over the last few years because of the need to improve the Army's operational capability. He even argued that those maneuvers impart greater force to the negotiations for the resolution of the whole Central American conflict. The Honduran minister constantly strove to demonstrate to the Spanish and international news media that there is a considerable military imbalance in the area, highly favorable to Nicaragua.

He reported as very necessary for the pacification of the area the signing of an agreement among the countries of Central America to make an inventory of the various states' military forces. This survey should be monitored by third countries -- preferably European.

In addition to the important social and economic causes, the Honduran foreign minister blamed the big powers' intersts in the area for the Central American conflict. He regarded as urgent an agreement to prevent unlawful arms trafficking in the area, and in this context assessed positively the calling of elections in Nicaragua, but added that that electoral process should be subject to the criteria set out by the Contadora Group.

Meets With France's Cheysson

NC141215 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Paris, April 14 (AFP) -- Nicaragua has threatened to mine "all the ports on the Caribbean from Panama to Guatemala", Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica said here today after talks with French Foreign Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson. Mr Paz Barnica, who arrived here Thursday night on a private visit, said they had discussed the situation in Central America, particularly the mining of Nicaraguan ports by U.S. backed guerrillas. Mr Paz Barnica is due to leave here Monday night.

CANADA'S MACEACHEN DISCUSSES AID, C.A. CRISIS

PA140315 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 14

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa -- Allan J. MacEachen, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, yesterday warned at a press conference that Canada will cancel aid to any country that used the funds to encourage an arms buildup. He defined Contadora as "something important" and said there is no possibility of economic and social development in Central America if the current tense situation continues. "Therefore, we must urge the demilitarization and withdrawal of military advisers and foreign troops from Central America," he added.

He asserted that the presence of "counterrevolutionaries or guerrillas is something related to the Central American process." He added: "surely, the rebel forces exist because they have been denied their legitimate rights, such as electoral processes." The Canadian secretary of state said that elections are adequate mechanisms to counter "the pressures" that are caused by the existence of guerrillas. He pointed out that Canada is satisfied "because Honduras has a democratic regime, and Honduras is receiving its aid, even though Canada is also giving aid to other countries that do not have democratic regimes."

He Condemned Placement of Mines.

The Canadian secretary of state condemned more than 2 weeks ago the placement of mines in Nicaraguan ports, which is reportedly being carried out with CIA resources.

He warned that Canada takes into consideration the destination that each country gives to the funds it receives. "If a nation were using the funds for adventures beyond its borders, Canada would have to take that into consideration," he pointed out. Without mentioning the name of the country, he said there is already the case of a nation to which Canada has cut its aid for this reason.

"For the past 2 weeks, Canada has stated its viewpoint regarding the placement of mines," he said, adding that "this is a violation of international law."

A journalist asked him what would happen to Canada's aid for the Honduran Government if the latter gave support to the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries.

MacEachen replied: "It is also being said that Nicaragua helps the Salvadoran guerrillas. We must be very careful with this, because international aid is not a political instrument; it cannot be viewed as such."

Interviewed on Tour

FL130400 Montreal Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Interview with Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen by unidentified reporter; in Tegucigalpa -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen completes his four country, 10 day tour of Central America tonight. He visited Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras on a mission to, as he put it, test Canada's policy against the reality. MacEachen questioned the heads of government and top officials in every country. Canada has poured millions of dollars in economic aid into Central America. We have reached the Honorable Allan MacEachen in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Mr MacEachen, has this visit affected the way you think we should design our interests in Central America?

[MacEachen] I haven't come up with any new policies and I think that what we are doing is [words indistinct] reasonably well. But, I think my perceptions of the situation have sharpened considerably. And, I hope my understanding of the situation has improved.

[Reporter] Well, are you going to come away from there feeling that we should somehow, in some way, have a higher profile?

[MacEachen] Yes, I think that I have come away with that idea, that what we are doing in the aid program is important. We ought to, I think, increase our political confrontation. I think we ought to support, where possible, the democratization of Central America. Countries like Costa Rica, a fledgling democracy like Honduras, where I am now, certainly deserve support of the country of Canada, and I think that they need that support.

[Reporter] Can we do that with one embassy in Costa Rica covering the four countries, or do we need more diplomatic representation?

[MacEachen] Well, I think that probably it would be better if we had a stronger presence in Nicaragua, for example. And I think that my visit increased the consciousness, my consciousness and certainly in Nicaragua itself, developments occuring not only internally but externally that are very important, that we ought to know a lot about, and that we ought to know about objectively, and have the facts and have the truth about the incidents driven by ideological preconception [as heard], which I think is a danger for outsiders like myself who come in and who may be influenced by preconceived ideas.

[Reporter] You must have talked about the coming elections in Nicaragua and I would assume you discussed with government people the lifting of censorship of press freedom there as an election approaches. What did they tell you?

[MacEachen] One of the most striking experiences I had was to meet the editorial board of the PRENSA in Managua. And, have them explain, quite [words indistinct] and with examples, the rather rigorous press censorship to which they are currently subjected I have never understood that in this hemisphere press censorship could take place as systematically.

As I think, that of course, the state of emergency exists, and that is the justification for the press censorship, but I did talk about elections and had a very good exchange with the president of the Council of State in Managua. Elections is the subject I thought I knew a bit about, but he tried to make the point that the election was the (?one) event that didn't have strong opposition.

[Reporter] How important is, you know, the opposition in the Nicaraguan election, is this issue of censorship, to the question as to whether we might send observers there?

[MacEachen] Well, I think that we haven't been asked for observers, but I think that I would be at least, in principle, guided by the same considerations as guided me in terms of El Salvador. And, that we ought to have people who could go, who would call the situation as it occurs, and according to their light, and tell us what happens as well as they can find out.

[Reporter] I gather one of the main topics of conversation on this trip just about everywhere you went was the Contadora Group. Where are those conversations leading? What is the perception of the achievements so far of Contadora?

[MacEachen] I have heard some very reputable commentators say that the protest probably held did not.[as heard] Washington delved in between Nicaragua and it has not prevented the war between Nicaragua and Honduras. It has at least less intention and I think the processes is very, very difficult. [as heard] I'd just come from a meeting with those in Honduras who are participating in the three commissions, the security, the political, and the economic and social [words indistinct] to their recounting their experiences to understand how very complex it is, as they search for some way to bring about peace in this region. And I can only say that their commitment is genuine, and that we have to get behind them and support them. There might be some difficulties, but what one might fear is the possibility of bad faith on the part of any one of the participants. And if that were the case, it would be very said indeed or if the international community, including the United States, did not give the process its full and sincere backing, because if the United States isn't behind it fully, then it would be a serious impediment to a solution.

[Reporter] You know, while you were in Washington, on this visit that you just refered to, you were asked not to go to Nicaragua, but you did. It does underline a certain difference in position toward this area between our two countries. Is that a route for you to pursue now that you've been there?

[MacEachen] I think we have to keep talking. Expressing our views to the United States and where we disagree, as we do, we have to tell them so.

[Reporter] For example, on this whole question of the mining of the Nicaraguan harbor.

[MacEachen] Yes, I think that that is a very serious development and it's not something that we can condone in any way. I was interested in noting that the Salvadoran ministers issued a statement just a couple of days ago in which they analyzed the security situation in the area and included the mining as one of the destabilizing elements that has occurred recently; it's serious. A rather serious thing is happening and I think we have to have our eye on those as well as we show our strong disapproval of mining.

[Reporter] Mr MacEachen, thank you for talking.

[MacEachen] Thank you. Good night.

LANDOWNER CITED FOR 'MASSACRE'; PEASANTS TO ARM

PA132245 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1310 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The General Central Organization of Workers (CGT) has accused the government and the Armed Forces of "arming the landowners to kill the peasants." A "massacre" of peasants in Los Cedros, 40 km north of Tegucigalpa, has unleashed a political storm in Honduras that is threatening to destabilize the Liberal Government of Roberto Suazo Cordova. Six peasants were killed, three wounded, and six others disappeared when a group of farmworkers tried to take possession of some land at dawn yesterday. According to the testimony of several surviving peasants, a group of 16 men equipped with heavy weapons and bloodhounds opened fire on the farmworkers, who fled in disarray.

The secretary general of the CGT, Social Christian Felicito Avila, told reporters that "one of the peasants was hanged and another castrated." Our fellow peasants were despicably massacred and tortured by landowner Andrew Valeriano, who hired a group of hoodlums," the labor leader added. According to Avila, "The Army and government sectors linked to the landowners are supplying them with weapons to massacre the peasants." He added that "this is an indicator that nothing has changed in the country; that the military continues the new strategy of arming the landowners, so the landowners can put into pracitce the law of the mightiest."

A spokesman of the INA [National Agrarian Institute] insisted that "it was a massacre, and those guilty will be brought to trial." Juliano Segera, a peasant and under secretary of the National Union of Peasants (UNC), said in his testimony that "the armed group fired about 600 shots" and that he escaped "by a miracle." "We are going to carry out five land seizure operations soon, but now we know how to do it, and we are going to open fire on the landowners just as they do on us," Seguera added.

In a radio statement, the lawyer for landowner Andres Valeriano described his client's action as "a legitimate act in defense of his private property." "The ones really to blame," he added, "are the farmworker leaders who irresponsibly mobilize the peasants into violating the law."

NICARAGUA

MOYNIHAN RESIGNATION PART OF U.S. 'CRISIS'

PA171948 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 84

["Beyond the News Reports" feature by Carlos Chamorro Coronel: "Moynihan's Resignation"]

[Text] The resignation of Senator Patrick Moynihan as vice chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence is another sign of the serious institutional crisis in the United States which could lead to the destruction of the U.S. constitutional system itself. Hence, the dignified action taken by a man who understands how U.S. Jeffersonian democracy works.

Under the law only the Congress, which is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, can control the use of public funds. Otherwise, a constitutional violation contrary to the U.S. republican tradition would take place.

In other words, if the Congress, which is made up of members elected by the people to represent them, can no longer control the Central Intelligence Agency -- which is directly subordinate to the executive branch, that is, the President, for national security matters -- then the people no longer rule, and the United States has ceased to be a republic and has become a dictatorship.

That is why Senator Moynihan's resignation is a very serious matter. He resigned to make a point of the seriousness of the crisis. The problem is based on the profound differences between Congress, representing the legislative branch, and the Presidency, which should not violate the law that the President himself swore to defend on accepting the power invested in him by the people, represented by the Congress.

In this case, the differences revolve around so-called war powers. The United States also has a so-called Neutrality Act prohibiting attacks on other nations such as Nicaragua with which the United States is at peace. However, the mining of ports as well as the support given to the counterrevolutionaries are indeed acts of war that only the Congress can authorize.

Therefore, we are dealing with an absurd legal situation in which that country's government is waging a war against us that the Congress has refused to authorize. In other words, control of the government has been lost, or if you wish, the legal authority to rule has been lost. Moreover, this also violates international law. Therefore, this situation represents a profound crisis affecting the U.S. republican, constitutional order itself. Even more serious is the fact that this also threatens world peace and international order. To overcome this crisis, the only option left to the U.S. people is to treat Ronald Reagan in the same way that Nixon was treated during Watergate; that is, to evict the current tenant from the White House.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ON REAGAN 'WARMONGERING'

PA170201 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Washington -- After general repudiation of the CIA action of mining Nicaraguan ports and the U.S. withdrawal from the International Courts of Justice in The Hague, the Reagan administration is facing quite a difficult situation of progressive international isolation. This comment was made by Antonio Jarquin, Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, when commenting on the worldwide consequences of imperialist aggressions against the Nicaraguan people in the past few weeks.

Reagan's problem, the Nicaraguan diplomat stressed, is that he has not been able to explain his conduct -- evidently terrorist and delinquent -- to his allies and the U.S. people, who fear a government capable of mining another country's waters, later proclaiming that it is free of all legal responsibility. Referring to the U.S. presidential elections, Ambassador Jarquin said that the United States will not be simply electing a president, but will have to decide between war and peace, adding that Reagan's reelection would be dangerous for humanity because of his warmongering policies.

Ambassador Jarquin also said that the restriction of Government Junta Member Sergio Ramirez Mercado's visa to visit the United States reflects the Reagan administration's fear of the possibility that a high-level dialogue may develop if the Nicaraguan people's message of peace and friendship is taken to the U.S. people.

REGIME DEMANDS 'URGENT MEASURES' BY COSTA RICA

PA170215 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0154 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Managua, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government today demanded that the Costa Rican Government adopt urgent measures "so that Costa Rican territory will not continue to be used by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) against the Nicaraguan people."

Victor Hugo Tinoco, deputy foreign minister of Nicaragua, today told newsmen that more than 500 ARDE militants in the past few days "left Costa Rica to attack the border post of San Juan del Norte," Rio San Juan Department. "The anti-Sandinists led by Eden Pastora are using airstrips located in Costa Rica to transport their men by helicopters to attack Nicaraguan positions," the Sandinist official noted. Tinoco added that "Barra del Colorado" is a military garrison of ARDE and is located in Costa Rica.

ZARRUCK BLAMES TRANSPORT PROBLEM ON 'AGGRESSION'

PA171555 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The existing deficiencies in the public transportation system in Nicaragua are a result of the Reagan administration's criminal aggressions against Nicaragua, Transportation Minister Carlos Zarruck Perez said. He told newsmen that the revolutionary government would need to spend $15 million to purchase 300 vehicles in order to meet the demand for transportation services.

[Begin Zarruck recording] To solve this problem we need approximately 300 buses. This implies an expense of $15 million, and at this time Nicaragua cannot afford to spend that on buses because most of our resources must go toward supplying the companeros in charge of our defense, who are attempting to cover all the flanks of the Sandinist popular revolution. We are forced to divert funds to other organizations which had not foreseen certain expenses, simply because the escalation in aggression increases every day.

In our 1984 budget we never estimated that our ports would be mined. That is a specific example. We never thought such a blatant violation of the international right to free passage would take place and that our ports would be mined in an attempt to strangle our population. Our new materials and our fertilizers come in through the most important ports. As long as they continue to block entry to our ports not only will we continue to suffer the economic consequences, but we will also have a problem in meeting the public's demands for basic products because of this attempt to create popular discontent against the revolution. [end recording]

JUNTA DECREE CURTAILS HOLY WEEK VACATIONS

PA131604 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr

[Decree issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in Managua on 12 April]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, declares that, whereas:

1. Nicaragua and its heroic working people are currently suffering a new and bigger counterrevolutionary offensive, directly financed, directed, and executed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, which has caused irreparable losses in human lives and economic and material resources, further worsening the already difficult situation of the nation's life due to the persistence and intensification of the policy of aggression of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration.

2. The country must do all it can to undertake the tasks of production and defense.

In exercise of its authority, it decrees the following partial suspension of the Holy Week vacations:

Article 1. The Holy Week vacations for all workers of the state and its institutions are partially suspended. As a result, they will work the full work day on Monday, the 16th, Tuesday, the 17th, and Monday, the 23rd. They will work until 1200 on Wednesday, the 18th.

Article 2. Holy Thursday, the 19th, and Good Friday, the 20th, will be days off with pay as national holidays. However, the workers involved in the activities to which Article 57 of the Labor Code refers must work those days, because these are services that cannot be interrupted.

Article 3. The vacation days not taken on this occasion will be granted by turns in accordance with the needs of the work centers as established in Article 64 of the Labor Code.

Article 4. This decree will enter into force the moment it is published by any collective communications media. This does not prevent its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, the official gazette.

After 50 years, Sandino lives

OFFICER SAYS PRIESTS ATTACK MILITARY SERVICE

PA132000 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Some foreign priests in Masaya and Granada are at the front of a renewed form of imperialist aggression which is seeking to undermine and eliminate the patriotic military service. Commander Ramon Cabrales, delegate of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in the 4th region, made this charge at a ceremony to install the 4th region's leadership of the Federation of Health Workers in the Granada Hotel in Granada. Cabrales said that the counterrevolution plans to use that sector in its attacks on the patriotic military service. We think that Holy Week will be a very difficult period and that they will seek a confrontation between the people's religious feelings and the revolution and between the people who have sons in the patriotic military service and the other revolutionaries, Cabrales said.

CHINESE WORKERS CONDEMN MINING OF HARBORS

PA171659 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Republic of China -- The Federation of Chinese Labor has condemned U.S. Government attacks in Central America, especially on Nicaragua, because they represent a threat not only to the region, but also to world peace.

(Wan Yu), a member of the International Affairs Secretariat of the Federation of Chinese Workers, during a visit to iron and steel workers of Managua, Nicaragua, expressed his people's repudiation of the mining of Nicaraguan ports that threatens Nicaragua as well as international navigation. The Republic of China's Federation of Workers delegation, which is also composed of union members (Li Chi Min) and (Wu Wan Chan), reiterated their solidarity with the Nicaraguan and Central American peoples in their just struggle to safeguard their independence against foreign intervention and defend national sovereignty.

CNPP PRESIDENT DISCUSSES PARTIES' AFFAIRS

PA171416 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The new Democratic Action Party today submitted its application for registration to the National Council of Political Parties, CNPP, which will consider the application on 28 April. CNPP president Huga Mejia said that the application was formally presented by Jose Manuel Elvir, who has been described as a politician with social democratic leanings.

Mejia also reported that the leftist Popular Action Movement, MAP, which has demanded an opportunity to participate in the legislative assembly, has not presented any documents to the CNPP to obtain legal status. Regarding the so-called Authentic Popular Social Christian Party [PPSCA], it has been reported that this organization cannot continue using these initials because the Social Christian Party, PSC, and the Social Christian Popular Party, PPSC, have already been registered.

PLI OUTLINES BASIC CONDITIONS FOR ELECTIONS

PA171621 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] Virgilio Godoy Reyes, former labor minister and current president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), last night said that "the restoration of freedom of expression and real guarantees for freedom of movement for political parties are two basic conditions for elections." He made this comment in his speech to a group of journalism students at the Ricardo Morales auditorium of the UCA [Central American University].

During a debate between the PLI representative and FSLN member Onofre Guevara, Godoy Reyes clearly outlined his party's stance regarding the upcoming elections and termed the FSLN budget allotment for next elections "stingy." Godoy Reyes also announced that the PLI will make its final decision regarding the 4 November elections at its special assembly to be held on 20 May. He also noted that his party did not accept the financial aid because it disagreed with the condition that political parties accepting it must carry out their campaign till the end. "The sum allocated to finance the elections is stingy, while campaign costs are high. Therefore, we ask: What is the cost of peace? [quotation marks as published]

Regarding the space granted to political parties in the communications media, Godoy said that the 6 million [currency not specified] assigned by the FSLN for this purpose is insufficient.

Godoy also said that "another mistake has been the election of the members of the Supreme Electoral Council. Not all political parties are represented there, and this means that there is an imbalance." "Having the perfect law is not enough. It is necessary to have adequate conditions to make the law effective, and these conditions should be given without advantages or favoritism, in order for elections to be a free, honest way to achieve peace," Godoy said.

POPULAR SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY DEFINES STAND

PA171341 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] In a communique issued today here in Managua, the Popular Social Christian Party defined its position on the upcoming elections by announcing that it will participate in the November elections. In the communique it expressed its confidence in the revolutionary government's will to create the political conditions needed to hold those elections. It also announced that, in the face of the naval blockade and the warmongering U.S. policy, it will fight to end U.S. aggression and to demand effective guarantees for freedom of press and action so that the various political parties may carry out their activities unhindered.

REPATRIATION OF 'ABDUCTED' MISKITOS DEMANDED

PA171420 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] A large delegation of relatives of Sandy Bay Miskitos abducted by contras on 29 March has appeared at the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to plead for repatriation of the Indians. The Miskitos of the delegation explained how their relatives were taken away by violence. The Indians' homes were looted. The members of the delegation said: Our relatives, as many as 734 persons, were abducted by contras. They did not go away willingly. For this reason, we ask the human rights commission to try to repatriate the Miskitos taken to Honduras by contras.

REPORTAGE ON SITUATION AT SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

Tinoco Terms Attacks 'Diversion'

PA171354 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] There were clashes last evening against more than 500 counterrevolutionaries led by the the traitor Eden Pastora in San Juan del Norte, 3 km from the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has said, indicating that Pastora's mercenaries will be dislodged toward Costa Rica, where they came from and where they operate with absolute freedom.

The escalation of agression both in northern and southern Nicaraguan is a diversionist campaign by the U.S. Government in the face of the defeat of its warmongering policies in Nicaragua and Central America, which are even being repudiated in the United States, Tinoco added. He added last evening that the contras have not taken control of San Juan del Norte, and that the mercenary organization ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] is conducting a diversionist campaign when it claims that it has occupied San Juan del Norte.

Tinoco told dozens of local and foreign newsmen that the alleged establishment of a provisional government in San Juan del Norte by the traitor Pastora's groups is a publicity stunt because there are no political or military conditions for such a thing there.

[Begin Tinoco recording] The current situation in San Juan del Norte is the same as existed on the first day that the attacks on that village began. International dispatches, which have been very contradictory, have reported clashes by the militias and the Sandinist forces against the counterrevolutionaries that are being supplied from Costa Rica.

In terms of the amount of weapons fire, it is no different from many actions that have been undertaken against the counterrevolutionary forces in northern Nicaragua.

Regarding the establishment of a provisional government, that is part of the diversionist campaign that they have undertaken in order to distract attention from the fundamental problem of the Reagan administration, which is the repudiation within the United States of the warmongering policy against Nicaragua. We believe it is a diversionist campaign. It has no military, social, or political basis. It is simply a means to divert public attention. [end recording]

ARDE May Withdraw

PA172229 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2201 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist organization ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] does not consider the control of San Juan del Norte important, according to information given to ACAN-EFE by a rebel spokesman in this capital. "We believe that the fundamental thing is to prove that we are capable of carrying out military actions in a large, 6,000-square km zone and that we have access to military landing strips and strategic positions at sea," he added.

ARDE's spokesman added that the takeover of San Juan del Norte has been, above all, a blow dealt to prove our control in southeast Nicaragua." This statement from ARDE was released while San Juan del Norte, taken over last Saturday by Commander Eden Pastora's guerrillas, is the target of a fierce Sandinist Army counteroffensive. ARDE's sources added that Eden Pastora "maintains control of the town square, despite constant Sandinist attacks by air and sea."

ARDE War Bulletin

PA180133 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 17 Apr 84

[War Bulletin No 213 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in San Juan del Norte, "free territory of Nicaragua"; date not given]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the heroic and long-suffering Nicaraguan people and to the free peoples and governments of the world:

1. The town of San Juan del Norte on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast has historically been a bastion of freedom in the Nicaraguans' struggle against filibusters and pirates who in 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries invaded our territory through that important port for the purpose of attacking and looting the cities of Granada and Rivas.

2. In addition to its historic importance, San Juan del Norte, also known as Greytown, is strategically located at the mouth of the San Juan River on the Atlantic Ocean.

3. For these reasons, ARDE decided to seize these important positions. After 15 days of preparations and organization, we proceeded to attack the enemy positions of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] in San Juan del Norte with artillery and rifle fire. Three companies comprised of 100 guerrillas each participated in this important military operation.

The enemy had approximately 150 heavily armed men barricaded into Vietnamese-type trenches. After 3 days of combat, in the early morning of 13 April 1984 the last pocket of resistance surrendered. The battles that began a short distance from San Juan del Norte subsequently turned into an assault phase, and we fought house-to-house until we achieved total control of the town, the airport, and the port located on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. The village of San Juan del Norte was partially destroyed.

Twenty soldiers of the pro-Soviet EPS fled in disarray when they saw that their forces were broken up. Despite the order issued by their foreign masters and national servants to resist to the end, 10 members of the pro-Soviet EPS defected to the ARDE Armed Forces at the beginning of the attack on San Juan del Norte, thus recognizing that their presence at the side of the totalitarian army only served to endorse the interests of Marxist-Leninist domination and the traitors of our Nicaraguan revolution.

The enemy that has invaded our fatherland suffered 16 dead and 30 wounded who, in accordance with the humanitarian treatment that Sandinist morals demand, were turned over to the Costa Rican Red Cross by the ARDE Armed Forces on the common border of the two countries. To this we must add 60 prisoners, 53 of whom, several of them officers, decided to join the ARDE Armed Forces when they realized that they are being the object of a foreign domination that has brought shame and crime to Ruben Dario's land. For our part, we lament the death of 9 heroic defenders of the fatherland's sovereignty and 14 wounded.

4. The ARDE Armed Forces recovered the following from the enemy: Soviet-made SAM-2 and SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles; 110 Soviet-made AK 47 rifles; 2 RPG-7 rocket launchers; 4 82-mm mortars; 150 mortar shells; 1 RPK machinegun; 2 RPD machineguns; 8 anti-personnel fragmentation grenades; 2 TPC [as heard] pistols; 10,000 rounds for the AK-7.62 mm assault rifle; 5,000 rounds for the AK-7.92; 1 launch with a 40-horsepower outboard motor; 1 electric generator, and a radio communications system.

5. With the seizure of San Juan del Norte, the former Greytown, we incorporate a strategically important point in the 6,500-square km of liberated territory controlled by ARDE, and we expand the control over the San Juan River, which extends from El Castillo to its mouth on the Atlantic.

6. Our guerrilla struggle forces us to defend the area controlled by ARDE. We will fight with high nationalist morale and dignity any attack from foreign troops and their national servants. The residents will be working in their agricultural tasks when the circumstances so permit it in order to contribute in this territory freed from foreign domination to the reconstruction of our fatherland in the area of agricultural production.

7. With this heroic action and any others that are necessary, we struggle for the democratic rescue of the Nicaraguan revolution in the land of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men.

[Signed] Commander Eden Pastora Gomez, commander in chief of the ARDE Armed Forces, San Juan del Norte, free territory of Nicaragua

Ministry: ARDE Forces Retreat

PA180255 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0224 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Communique No 3-33 issued by the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate in Managua on 17 April]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports:

1. Within the framework of the imperialist war through the counterrevolutionary mercenaries who operate against our territory from Honduras and Costa Rica, on 8 April, mercenary forces of traitor Pastora began infiltrating into the national territory from Costa Rica's north Atlantic sector to the area of San Juan del Norte, just 2 km from the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

2. Since the day that the mercenary forces of traitor Pastora, numbering up to 500 men, began their assault, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] garrison in that small border post has been heroically repelling these attacks staged from Costa Rica.

3. This morning, EPS troops pushed back to their place of origin in Costa Rica the mercenaries who still maintained some pockets of resistance in the San Juan del Norte border area.

4. In their desperate flight to Costa Rica, the mercenaries used a yacht and five boats, two of which were sunk in the San Juan River by the Sandinist Air Force.

5. EPS troops are carrying out an intense search in the area to determine the exact number of enemy casualties and the exact situation of the EPS members stationed in the small border garrison of San Juan del Norte, which withstood the first confrontations with the invading mercenary forces.

6. From various points on the border in Costa Rica, Pastora's mercenaries are sporadically shooting and using mortars to harass our territory in this zone.

7. Further reports on this will be issued soon.

[Signed] Managua, 17 April 1984, Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry.

MALMIERCA ON NICARAGUAN MINES, OTHER ISSUES

PA180333 Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Havana, 17 Apr (AFP) -- The possibility that Cuba, if invited, would cooperate in sweeping the mines from the Nicaraguan ports as part of a collective action was suggested here today by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. But Malmierca stressed above all "everyone's obligation to work to prevent a direct U.S. aggression against Nicaragua" which, althouth unable to defeat the Sandinist revolutionary process, would force the Nicaraguan people to pay a very high cost in blood."

The Cuban foreign minister, who met recently in Paris with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, praised the French offer to help Managua eliminate the mines, and he reiterated Cuba's support for the Contadora Group's efforts to find a negotiated regional peace. However, Malmierca stressed in a (?news conference) this afternnon that neither Panama nor any other member of the Contadora Group has so far undertaken any "formal or official contact or effort" to have their envoys visit Havana, as announced in remarks attributed to the Panamanian foreign minister in news dispatches.

In summary, the Cuban foreign minister, who last month visited Ghana, Upper Volta, and France, made the following comments in reply to questions from correspondents here:

Colombia: Bogota and Havana have "useful contacts" in "a positive atmosphere," but "they are not in the process of conducting talks that should culminate in the normalization of the diplomatic relations," nor is there "any date or timetable for reestablishing them. [quotation marks as received]

Peru: The "speculations about alleged ties between Cuba and the Shining Path group are groundless" because, he stated emphatically, "There have been no Cuban ties with the Shining Path, either in the past or in the present."

Brazil: Although visits of artists, athletes, and businessmen are exchanged and in the framework of international meetings there have been dialogues between Cuba and Brazilian officials -- the latter being "rare and unusual" -- there are no direct or any other kind of contacts between the Brazilian and Cuban Governments."

Honduras: "The United States has turned that country into a virtual occupied territory" that "shows the preparation for new aggressions against Nicaragua."

France: Bilateral relations are "favorable and positive," and both governments have "identical positions regarding the urgent need to seek a political solution" to the Central American situation.

South Africa: To date "it maintains its troops in Angolan territories and has not taken steps to fulfill the UN resolution on the independence of Namibia."

Ethiopia: "When the danger to Ethiopia's territorial integrity disappears, the return of the Cuban troops stationed there will be appropriate."

Malmierca indicated that the same approach is applicable to the Cuban military forces in Angola, in accordance with the Cuban-Angolan joint declaration issued in Havana in March.

TALKS BEGIN IN ROMANIA ON STEEL INDUSTRY TIES

FL171554 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1513 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba's Steelworking Industry Vice Minister Hugo Vazquez is in Bucharest to begin today the second phase of the meeting with the Romanian side of the joint group for cooperation in that branch. The objective of the talks is to intensify Cuban-Romanian cooperation in the machine building industry. The Romanian side is headed by Machine Building Deputy Minister Ilarie Munteanu.

EDITOR OF BULGARIAN DAILY ARRIVES FOR VISIT

AU172006 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Yordan Yotov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and editor in chief of RABOTNICHESKO DELO, has arrived in Havana on a friendly visit at the invitation of Jorge Enrique Mendoza, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and director of the GRANMA daily.

ORAMAS CONCLUDES VISIT TO MADAGASCAR, SIGNS PACT

FL172054 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1928 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Oscar Ormas, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, has concluded a working visit to Madagascar, the purpose of which was to strengthen bilateral relations. Cuba and Madagascar have had relations for 10 years.

During his stay in that country, Oramas was received by Malagasy counterpart (Dian Adbenmahada). In these meetings, they emphasized links between the two countries, which are members of the Nonaligned Movement, and pledged to increase exchanges and cooperation in all fields.

Oramas and Minister (Adbenmahada) signed a cultural protocol between the two countries. They will participate in the opening of an exposition entitled Victoria de Giron.

MEETING AT ICAP SUPPORTS CHILEAN COALITION

FL180046 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] The first meeting in Cuba in support of the progressive coalition, People's Democratic Movement of Chile [Movimiento Democratico Popular de Chile], is taking place at this time at the headquarters of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples [ICAP] in Havana.

The Chilean military dictator General Augusto Pinochet today rejected any dialogue with the opposition centrist coalition, Democratic Alliance [Alianza Democratica], which does not consider the Pinochetist Constitution of 1980 as fundamental.

MACHADO VENTURA REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PA171526 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 84

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Of the almost 6.5 million Cuban voters, 98.7 percent showed Sunday at the polls to elect delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Government in a process that was honest, democratic, and exemplary in every way, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, presiding officer of the National Electoral Commission, has officially announced.

According to Machado Ventura, of the 6,494,488 registered voters, 6,411,251 showed up at the polls. He recalled that in 1981, when the last election was held for delegates to the municipal assemblies of the People's Government, there was a 97.2 percent turnout at the polls. He explained that as compared with 1981, an additional 313,612 voters turned out at the polls this year, and that 472 electoral precincts [circumstances] will participate in the runoff election, that is, 500 less than in 1981.

In his report to the people, Machado Ventura, a member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo, explained that 10,494 delegates were elected Sunday. This represents 75.7 percent of the total and exceeds by 731 the number elected in 1981.

In the previous election, Machado Ventura added, 747 women were elected, while this time 1,183 were elected, that is, an additional 436 women.

As for the workers, he went on, 2,430 were elected this time. This represents 185 more than 2 years ago and constitutes 23.2 percent of the total number of delegates elected.

Machado Ventura explained that these elections and their successful results are evidence of the political awareness and patriotism of our citizens and disprove those who try in vain to discredit the Cuban revolution. He also said that these elections, characterized by the people's massive participation, can never be equaled by the electoral farces organized by imperialism in those nations under its domination. Here, he said, it is the Pioneers, not murderous soldiers, who guard the polls. No abuses, kidnappings, or violent actions are carried out in our streets against those who might or might not wish to vote.

Finally, the leader congratulated all those who participated in the elections, especially the people, who are carrying out the victorious work of the revolution.

98.7 Percent Turnout

FL171236 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Apr 84

[All figures as heard]

[Text] In the elections held yesterday [15 March] 6,411,251 people voted in all Cuba. This represents 98.7 percent of all registered voters.

A total of 10,494 delegates -- or 95.7 percent -- was elected in this first round. This compares with 91 percent elected in the previous elections, held in 1981.

One thousand one hundred eighty-three women were elected delegates; this is 436 more than were elected in the previous elections.

There was also an increase of 285 in the number of workers elected. The total in the present elections was 2,430.

It is of interest to note that the number of electoral districts that will have to hold runoffs decreased from 520 in 1981 to 472.

PUERTO RICANS EVICTED NEAR U.S. MILITARY SITE

FL171350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] More than 1,000 Puerto Ricans living near the U.S. Ramsey Military Base in Puerto Rico have been evicted without explanation by military forces. The area's cooperative council president said he did not know the reasons for the evictions, but added that large U.S. planes constantly land at the base, unloading troops and military equipment.

The report is made at the same time that Washington increases both its number of soldiers in Central America and its attacks against Nicaragua.

REAGAN FACES PROBLEMS OVER MINING PORTS

PA160250 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Government is facing a difficult situation, even in circles traditionally linked to the White House where it has been confirmed that the CIA is responsible for the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

The U.S. Congress has been giving the matter much attention and, according to estimations, this could negatively affect voting on a request by President Ronald Reagan for additional aid for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands. On Tuesday Reagan suffered an impressive defeat in his covert war against Nicaragua, since even his followers in Congress condemned U.S. participation in planting mines off Nicaraguan ports.

The Senate in Washington approved a resolution repudiating the CIA's participation in such activities. Eighty-four senators voted yes and only 12 voted no. The resolution is not binding, but it demonstrates the rejection elicited by the U.S. Government policy.

After the result of the voting was announced, the White House issued a communique trying to justify its decision, thereby assuming responsibility for this criminal action, and asserted that the mining of Nicaraguan ports constitutes a reprisal for what it termed subversive actions by Sandinist authorities in Central America.

Despite all this, the Congress is not satisfied and has expressed its indignation at not being consulted prior to the planting of mines. The Congress is also annoyed at Reagan's 2-year rejection of The Hague international court's jurisdiction over his actions in Central America.

Investigation Requested

PA140035 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has condemned the mining of Nicaraguan ports with U.S. participation and has requested that U.S. federal funds not be used for such operations. By a large majority the lower house approved the resolution, which is of a nonbinding nature and is similar to the one approved on Tuesday by the U.S. Senate.

In what has been described as an unprecedented action in the United States, a group of U.S. representatives who comprise the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee has requested the attorney general to appoint a special attorney to investigate President Ronald Reagan's violations of the neutrality law. In a letter sent to Attorney General William French Smith, the representatives requested that it be established whether several high-ranking U.S. officials violated the law when they approved and directed actions against the legal government of Nicaragua, with which diplomatic relations are maintained. The attorney general has 30 days to answer the request.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA MAKES CHARGES AGAINST U.S.

PA160135 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaragua has denounced the fact that the new counterrevolutionary offensive unleashed against the southern region of that country by mercenary bands operating from Costa Rica coincided with the arrival of a U.S. warship at the Costa Rican Port of Limon. Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that this is not a fortuitous situation. He accused Costa Rican Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon of openly helping the counterrevolution by attacking Nicaragua from Costa Rica.

Ortega noted that the attitude of Chacon and other Costa Rican officials endangers the neutrality proclaimed by the government of President Luis Alberto Monge and denounced the U.S. taking advantage of the economic crisis to blackmail Central American governments and to involve them in the aggression against Nicaragua.

The Sandinist leader said the Nicaraguan people are heroically struggling along the borders with Costa Rica and Honduras and have been able to stop this offensive which, like the others launched by the United States, will be defeated.

Daniel Ortega said that Nicaragua is enduring a cordon imposed by the United States. There is pressure on the northern and southern borders and on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. This makes it obligatory for Nicaraguans to double their efforts in defense of the revolution.

Meanwhile, the daily LA NACION, which is edited in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, has reported that several airplanes and a helicopter continue supplying arms to the counterrevolutionary bands operating near the San Juan River, on the border between the two countries.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has joined other chiefs of state, prominent politicians, organizations, and the media of several countries in rejecting the mining of Nicaraguan ports by counterrevolutionary groups financed and organized by the United States. Monge said that environment created in the region by this activity is very grave and hinted that the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry could make a statement in this regard in the next few days.

NICARAGUAN MINISTER RETURNS FROM USSR, DPRK

PA162030 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega has characterized as fruitful and positive his meetings with leaders of the Soviet Union and the DPRK during his official trip to those two countries. At a news conference held on his return from Managua, the Sandinist leader said that during his stay in Moscow and Pyongyang, he found a reiteration of political, moral, and material solidarity for Nicaragua, a country currently facing an aggression directed by the U.S. Government.

Regarding the attacks by counterrevolutionary bands against San Juan del Norte, Humberto Ortega said this point cannot be considered a beachhead because it is surrounded by jungle and swamps, which would not let any force expand and represent a strategic threat. These attacks, he said, are only a propaganda maneuver of U.S. imperialism, which is using traitor Eden Pastora to turn attention from the grave political and diplomatic defeats Washington has suffered because of the repudiated mining of the Nicaraguan ports and its aggressions.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIAL CITED ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

PA172056 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry last night reported that intense clashes are taking place in San Juan del Norte and that that village is not now under nor will be under control of any mercenary force. Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaragua's deputy foreign minister, stated at a press conference that units of the Sandinist People's Army are fighting the counterrevolutionaries, whose presence in San Juan del Norte increased from 500 to 600 men who will soon be dislodged and pushed toward Costa Rica, from where they came.

Tinoco said that all the U.S. publicity concerning the alleged occupation of San Juan del Norte and Eden Pastora's establishment of a provisional government there are part of a diversionist campaign intended to distract the public's attention from the serious problems that President Reagan is facing in view of domestic and international rejection of his Central American policy.

Tinoco also read a Foreign Ministry communique asking Costa Rica to take urgent steps to prevent the continued escalation of aggression against Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory, such as the attack launched by mercenaries of the self-styled Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDU, against San Juan del Norte. The communique states that the overt use of Costa Rican territory has increased to the extent that several hospitals and health centers in Ciudad Quesada and Barra del Colorado are currently serving the attacking mercenary forces. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry warns that the San Jose government must act promptly if it wishes to prevent the United States, through the CIA, from continuing to jeopardize the safety of Costa Rican territory and the principle of neutrality proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge.

Several ARDE leaders told the U.S. TIME magazine that they received U.S. naval support during the attack on San Juan del Norte and that they had used 82-mm mortars and 50-caliber machineguns, brought to them by a C-47 plane piloted by an American a few days prior to the attack.

CANADIAN SHIPS REPORTED GOING TO NICARAGUA

PA161959 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Alberto Rabilota from Montreal, Canada]

[Text] A Canadian ship transporting potash for Nicaragua will enter the ports of that Central American country despite the mines placed by the United States. The (L'Sanz), with a crew of 33 sailors and 21 cadets from the Quebec government's maritime school, will be towed as it enters the Port of Corinto, according to an announcement made by the firm that owns the ship.

Another Canadian ship, the (Alcaran II), docked at Puerto Sandino last Saturday. It will unload 7,250 tons of Canadian urea. A third merchant ship will soon be arriving at a Nicaraguan port with 8,000 tons of sulphate.

According to reports, the Canadian ships have received instructions to enter Nicaraguan ports and to unload their cargo, while the Canadian Government continues expressing to Washington its concern over the mining of the Nicaraguan ports.

The protests over this action, which Canadian papers have characterized as terrorist and as an act of war, have reached the federal Parliament. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has been asked by Social Democratic leader (Ed Broben) if Ottawa will officially protest the mining of the Nicaraguan ports. The prime minister answered by saying that his government views this action as very negative for a peaceful solution in Central America.

REAGAN USES DEFENSE FUNDS FOR AID TO EL SALVADOR

PA161755 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] News sources have reported in San Salvador that Army troops in a cowardly fashion fired on 400 peasants in Copalchan canton, north of the capital, and that only 65 peasants were able to escape the criminal attack and find refuge in a nearby valley. Witnesses have said that it has not been established what happened to these peasants, but it is believed that those who did not die as a result of the shooting were captured by the soldiers, and their whereabouts are unknown.

The Legal Aid Department of the Office of the Archbishop of San Salvador has reported that in March alone the Armed Forces and the paramilitary groups murdered 430 cilivians.

Emergency ammunition shipments are already being sent from the United States to El Salvador after President Ronald Reagan took advantage of exceptional powers to circumvent the U.S. Congress' decisions. Since Reagan was unable to secure congressional support for his request for $93 million in emergency military aid for El Salvador, he decided to ignore the U.S. Congress and use $62 million from the Pentagon budget. The decision was immediately objected to by Clarence Long, chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives. Clarence Long cautioned that from now on Reagan's requests for help for his Central American allies will be in danger.

SALVADORAN SECURITY CHIEF SHOT; ATTACKS REPORTED

PA171430 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Unidentified persons traveling in a taxi have shot to death Alfredo Zapata, Salvadoran chief of the security corps guarding the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. Zapata, former chief of the Salvadoran National Police's criminal investigations, had been working at the U.S. Embassy many years and had approximately 100 men under his command.

Guerrilla forces have attacked the Salvadoran Army post in the city of Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, where they distributed flyers stating their rejection of the military maneuvers being carried out by the U.S. Government in Honduras near the Salvadoran border. Another rebel detachment occupied El Jiote Canton, located 20 km east of San Salvador.

Salvadoran Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas has denounced the regime's bombing of the civilian population. During his traditional Sunday homily, the prelate asserted that the Salvadoran Air Force attacked Quezaltepeque Canton in Cuscatlan Department.

PRESIDENT VISITS U.S., ADDRESSES OAS, UN

Urges OAS to More Active Role

FL121736 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] [In progress] At the OAS, Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco said peace will come to Central America only through dialogue and negotiations, not through violence. Mr Jorge Blanco said the OAS should play a more active role in solving Latin America's economic problems and the conflicts in Central America.

Backs Contadora Efforts at UN

FL141158 Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] President of the Dominican Republic Salvador Jorge Blanco has asked at the UN that new impetus be given to the Contadora Group and that if possible, this impetus be extended.

Antonio Enrique Jimenez has sent this report from the UN in New York. Speaking before the UN's Latin American group, Jorge Blanco said that Central America is one of the most convulsed areas of the world and that a peaceful solution to the situation is the only acceptable alternative.

[Begin Jorge recording] My country has insistently called for a peaceful solution, through dialogue and negotiation, to the dramatic crisis which is affecting the Central American region. For this reason, we have determinedly supported the Contadora Group's peace efforts and we believe that these efforts could be reinforced and extended without deprecating the principles of international law. [end recording]

Jorge Blanco asked that measures be put in motion which would start global negotiations. He urged the use of mechanisms that would enable the massive transference of funds from the industrialized nations to the developing nations through the UN's General Assembly, which is dominated by the Third World, and not through organizations such as the World Bank or the IMF, which are controlled by the industrialized nations.

President Jorge Blanco ended his visit to New York with a luncheon given by the Americas Society [Sociedad de las Americas] at the Pierre Hotel. He then met with New York Mayor Ed Koch and discussed the fact that the Dominican community is second in size only to the Puerto Rican community in New York.

FORMER PRESIDENT ON IMF, ECONOMIC POLICY

FL171556 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 8 Apr 84 pp 1, 13

[Excerpt] Former President Juan Bosch yesterday said that President Salvador Jorge Blanco will not obtain the support of influential groups in the United States to resolve the Dominican economic crisis because the solution depends on the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. "I believe that neither President Reagan nor economically influential groups in the United States can resolve the Dominican situation," Bosch stated.

The president of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) based his opinion on the fact that the IMF "has taken control of Dominican fiscal policy" and, judging from the experience of all the countries in which the IMF has taken such "control," the Dominicans should not build up their hopes.

Bosch made these statements when he was interviewed at his residence in Santo Domingo regarding the opinion expressed by certain influential organizations of the Dominican Republic, including the president of the National Council of Businessmen (CNHE), Huge Brache, to the effect that the trip that President Salvador Jorge Blanco will start tomorrow will be beneficial to the nation.

"The IMF and only the IMF will decide the economic policy of the Dominican Government," Bosch said. It is his opinion that "no government or group of capitalists can modify that situation." Bosch stated that Dominican politicians and economists should have been aware of this fact "but they did not know that the IMF is not a bank like the World Bank or the IDB."

Bosch stated that because they were not acquainted with the facts, the politicians and economists did not realize that the IMF "is the world's monetary police and is in charge of maintaining the dollar as the currency of international trade; for this reason, wherever the IMF goes, it takes measures to strengthen the dollar, which is the money used in international trade."

BANK, U.S. TO LEND FUNDS TO PROMOTE EXPORTS

FL121748 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The United States Agency for International Development is loaning the Dominican Republic funds to promote new exports. Under an agreement signed Tuesday, a private Dominican development bank and the United States' lending agency will each contribute $2 million to form a loan pool; $4 million will be marked for small and medium size businesses which produce nontraditional exports, such as handicraft and vegetables.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

PRIME MINISTER BIRD'S LABOR PARTY WINS ELECTIONS

FL180232 Bridgetown CANA in English 0228 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] St John's, Antigua, April 17 (CANA) -- Prime Minister Vere Bird's Antigua Labor Party was tonight returned to power after today's general elections, latest results show.

BERMUDA

DAVID GIBBONS RESIGNS AS FINANCE MINISTER

FL172142 Bridgetown CANA in English 2057 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, April 17 (CANA) -- David Gibbons has resigned as Bermuda's finance minister -- a post he held for nine years. Announcing his retirement at a press conference, Gibbons, 56, said that he wanted to spend more time with his family. He is also resigning his House of Assembly seat.

Gibbons, a member of Parliament for Penbroke West, served as premier of this British Colony from 1977 until 1982 when he was succeeded by John Swan.

A successor for Gibbons as finance minister has so far not been named but the speculation is that Health Minister Dr Clarence James, who was beaten by Mr Swan in the 1982 race for the premiership, will take over the post.

Gibbons said that although his dozen years in politics had been "interesting and challenging;" he was now looking forward to fulfilling another of his dreams -- working with his three sons in the family business.

The Gibbons family have widespread business interests in the island ranging from liquor shops to department stores.

GRENADA

WINSTON WHYTE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF NEW PARTY

FL162234 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 16 (CANA) -- Former Grenadian parliamentarian Winston Whyte announced plans today for the launching Saturday of a new labour party to contest the next general elections.

Whyte, an ex-political prisoner of the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), said the party would be called the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP).

He told CANA that the CDLP which is seen as a challenge to the exisiting (Grenada United) Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy is dedicated to the unification of Grenada at what he referred to as its most basic level.

He also said the party is specifically geared towards looking after the plight of those political prisoners under the PRG which was toppled during last October's military coup, by a radical faction. The Army was subsequently ousted by a U.S.-led invasion

At the launching, he said that there would be a statement of principles and election of a steering committee which would prepare for a convention within two months.

Whyte declined to give the names of those persons closely associated within the party until Saturday but he did say a [words indistinct] for the ceremony.

JAMAICA

SEAGA ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF EXPORT FUNDS

FL171232 Bridgetown CANA in English 1858 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 16 (CANA) -- Jamaica has secured 12 million U.S. dollars for the Export Development Fund (EDF) -- a major source of financing for the island's manufacturing sector -- which is to re-commence operation on May 1, the state-owned Jamaica Information Service said.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who made the announcement at the launching of a task force on export development, said that the replenishment of the fund had to be its first priority in his government's new export thrust so that the manufacturing export sector could function effectively.

A further 40 million U.S. dollars is also to be made available to that sector through an export rehabiliation fund under an agreement signed in March with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Seaga said. These funds will also make foreign exchange available for the purchase of raw material and spare parts.

Of the 20 million dollars which will be available through the EDF, 2 million dollars will be for exports to the Caribbean Community (Caricom) each month. Seaga explained that in the past the fund had been used up for exports to Caricom which did not earn hard currency or convertable foreign exchange, and therefore, the fund declined rather than rolled.

A certain amount was, therefore, being allocated, he said, specifically for Caricom so as not to dry up the source for the rest of the sector.

SHEARER TO MEET TODAY WITH CLAUDE CHEYSSON

FL171650 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been in Brussels since April 5 for a series of meetings with the nine ACP Ambassadors who have been designated as negotiating spokesmen for various subject areas including Trade, Rules of Origin, Stabex, Agricultural Co-operation, Mineral Products, Fisheries, Tourism, Industrial Co-operation, Financial and Technical Co-operation, and Institutional Questions.

Mr Shearer has undertaken this visit in his role as President of the ACP Ministerial Council for the current period, which lasts until the end of July. In his meetings in Brussels, he is reviewing with the Ambassadors the up-to-date position of the negotiations with the EEC for a successor to the Lome Convention which expires February, 1985. The negotiations have been proceeding at the Ambassadorial level since October last year, and a Ministerial negotiating session is due to be held in Fiji at the beginning of May under Mr Shearer's presidency -- hence the need for up-to-minute reports from the ACP negotiators.

Today, Mr Shearer will meet with Mr Claude Cheysson, French Foreign Minister, in Paris. Mr Cheysson is the current President of the EEC Ministerial Council and will lead the community side in the Fiji meeting. In Paris, there will also be a meeting with Mr Edgard Pisani, European Commissioner for Development.

On Monday, Mr Shearer meets with Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State in the British Foreign Office, who has special responsibility for these negotiations. In these discussions Mr Shearer is accompanied by Mr Frank Francis, permament secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Miss Carmen Parris, Jamaican Ambassador in Brussels.

PNP PROTESTING RECENT GOVERNMENT TAX MEASURES

FL161450 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, April 15 (CANA) -- The opposition People's National Party is carrying its protests against recent tax measures by the government to the streets.

The party held three demonstrations Friday in the north coast resort towns of Ocho Rios and Montego Bay and the midland town of Mandeville. The demonstrations were peaceful, reports said, and were held despite the refusal of the police high command to grant permission. The police said the mandatory three days notice was not given by the organisers.

The PNP said the tax measures announced at the beginning of the month would have a deleterious effect on the economy.

The package to raise 138.5 million dollars (1 JCA dollar; 26 cents U.S.) includes increased stamp duty on imported raw materials, a sharp hike in consumption taxes on cigarettes, and a double of the education, travel, and hotel accomodation taxes.

The PNP is not represented in Parliament, having boycotted last October's general elections. Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party controls all 60 seats.

ST LUCIA

GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ALLEN'S THRONE SPEECH

FL102234 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 10 Apr 84

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 10 (CANA) -- St Lucia said today it would soon recommend changes to the treaty of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to ensure the seven-country grouping's right in international law to act collectively in the interest of its security is unchallengeable.

Governor General Sir Allen spoke of the initiative in his throne speech to mark the start of a new session of Parliament. Sir Allen gave no details of the proposed changes, but said they arose out of recent "tragic" events in Grenada, a reference to last October's U.S.-led military operation initiated by the OECS, Barbados, and Jamaica to oust a pro-Cuba military junta that had seized power in a coup in St George's.

"The Grenada experience has demonstrated to the world our determination to maintain, promote and protect our democratic way of life, and has reinforced my government's resolve to strengthen international law to act collectively for our security's unchallengable." [sentence as received]

Sir Allen said the Grenada experience had highlighted the vulnerability of small states to externally supported subversion.

At the initiative of the St Lucia Government, he said, the Commonwealth Secretariat has been mandated to study the security requirements of small states such as those in the Caribbean and Pacific. In the meantime, Sir Allen said, St Lucia with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St Christopher and Nevis, and St Vincent had entered into regional security arrangements to ensure that the political integrity of the area is protected from outside intrusion. Sir Allen also announced government plans to expand "the horizon" of its diplomatic relations.

Government has decided to establish full diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan), he said, and a Taiwanese delegation will soon visit St Lucia to complete the necessary formalities.

To ensure the greatest return from expenditure on overseas representation, government would shortly establish an embassy in Washington. Sir Allen also announced government's plans to set up a review and law reform commission to pay particular attention to the laws relating to physical planning, the environment, road traffic, and telecommunications, as they impinge on local economic development.

He added: "In addition, in recognition of the role trade organizations and trade unions play in the orderly development of the society, government will introduce legislation dealing with aspects of the labour code which have been agreed to," he said.

Bills relating to severance pay and workmen's compensation will also be taken before Parliament, while income tax laws will be amended. Sir Allen said that government was "acutely aware" of the serious problems posed by inadequate housing.

"In addition to a vigorous housing programme, government will introduce a new rent restriction bill requiring the registration of all rented properties and a rent review board to ensure that rents charged are fair and just," he disclosed.

He said that the succession duty ordinance will be amended to relieve a surviving spouse from the payment of succession duties on the matrimonial home, while the status of illegitimate children with respect to the estate of the mother will be protected.

ST VINCENT

NEW OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS IN PARLIAMENT

FL121642 Bridgetown CANA in English 2313 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 11 (CANA) -- Former Minister of Health Randolph Russell has been appointed opposition leader in the St Vincent Parliament for the second time since 1979.

Russell, one of three elected opposition members of Parliament, was appointed following a decision of fellow opposition MP Calder Williams to switch loyalty from former opposition leader James Mitchell. Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) last week announced that it would not be supporting the candidacy of either Russell or Williams in the forthcoming general election constitutionally due by March next year.

Since the December, 1979 general election which swept Prime Minister Milton Cato's St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) to power for a second consecutive five-year term, all three elected opposition parliamentarians have served as leader of the opposition in Parliament for brief periods at one time or another, as Williams, after first stepping down from the post in favour of Russell, twice shifted allegiance between Russell and Mitchell.

The country's constitution provides for the appointment as leader of the opposition in Parliament of the elected opposition member who commands the support of the majority of elected parliamentarians in opposition to the government.

Williams and the New Democratic Party's Cosmos Cozier were the only elected opposition members of Parliament here following the 1979 general election which the SVLP won by a 9-2 majority but Cozier, who won his seat in the Grenadines constitutency, resigned without even taking his seat in Parliament once, and Williams became the automatic choice as opposition leader.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ATTORNEY GENERAL ELECTED PNM VICE PRESIDENT

FL171216 Bridgetown CANA in English 2242 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 16 (CANA) -- Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Senator Russell Martineau has been elected vice chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling political party, the People's National Movement (PNM), press reports here said today. Party officials could not be immediately contacted for confirmation. Both morning dailies quoted party sources as saying the other main contender, Works Minister Hugh Francis, stepped down from the contest to give Martineau a virtual "no contest" victory.

Political observers see Martineau's election, at the party's general council meeting yesterday, as a victory for Chambers who had earlier indicated that he would have liked to see the attorney general in the top party post.

The post of party vice chairman became vacant with the recent resignation of Basil Pitt who was appointed this country's high commissioner to Canada.

BURNHAM CALLS FOR REGIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT

FL171932 Bridgetown CANA in English 1825 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 17 (CANA) -- Guyana's President Forbes Burnham has called for the setting up of a regional peace movement "so that there will be a united effort to fight the imperialist forces in the region." He made the appeal during a rally last night which ended a Caribbean and Latin American peace conference.

Burnham said such gatherings were necessary "to identify the enemies of peace and to pave the way for the universal mobilisation of all the people to achieve peace." He told the gathering: "We do not want war, we want peace, whether it be in Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Latin America; we don't want war, even in the Falklands, but it seems that we may be drifting towards war."

He asked whether it was not a waste of money and materials to build more bombs when there were enough to liquidate all humanity.

"This question of war, of arms, serious though it may be for Europe, it is more serious for us in the Third World, and I think, consequently, we have a greater interest in being strugglers and fighters and revolutionaries for peace, regardless of ideology, philosophy, religion, or what have you," Burnham told the rally.

He said nine-tenths of the child deaths resulting from starvation occurred in the Third World. "The price for one submarine can build several hospitals in the Third World, and provide school places and schools for thousands; one submarine, and we are not talking about the Trident, we are talking about the ordinary fellow," he said.

Burnham urged the participants to campaign not only for a ban on nuclear weapons, but conventional weaponry as well. He said that conventional weaponry had killed thousands of people.

Burnham warned that if thousands of people are put in uniform in such large numbers, and given toys of destruction with which to play "they can find themselves wanting to use the toys."

"Further, the possession of these toys, or the weapons being at the disposal of certain people, circles, and agencies leads them to believe that they can dictate not only the fortunes of the world, but the thoughts of the world," the president warned.

IADB LENDS $44 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

FL121757 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank has agreed to grant a loan to Guyana for several development projects. The loan, worth over $44 million, will cover the cost for an irrigation project, the country's Agricultural Authority, and training courses at the managerial level for the lumber industry.

PPP URGES GOVERNMENT TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE TO IMF

FL121809 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 12 (CANA) -- The Marxist oppostion People's Progressive Party (PPP) has told the Guyana Government to seek an alternative source of development aid to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But the Catholic Church's newspaper took a different stand.

The PPP was reacting to what it said were reports that the government was preparing to resume negotiations with the fund for a multi-million dollar loan. Negotiations between the two last year ended with Guyana rejecting the IMF's loan conditions as too harsh.

"The IMF packages since 1978 have been disastrous for Guyana, and have not helped the ailing economy one bit," the PPP said in a statement. The party, headed by former Guyana Premier Dr Cheddi Jagan, said IMF aid packages had led to removal of several price controls.

"This is part of the general IMF package which includes de-regulation, de-control, de-nationalisation, and de-centralisation, the party said. It added: "The PPP stresses that the IMF road is the road to disaster, and should not be adopted by the Government of Guyana. It will result in more burdens placed on the backs of the toiling people. An alternative to the IMF must be found."

But THE CATHOLIC STANDARD, published by the Roman Catholic Church here, said Guyana's only hope "is to enter into an agreement with the International Monetary Fund." The weekly paper added: "Even this, at times, seems a vain hope." In an editorial, the paper said massive injections of foreign aid in the past had failed to keep the economy buoyant and "conditions have steadily worsened." The paper accused the governemnt of trying to keep Guyanese in the dark about negotiations with the fund and trying to cover up "its half-hearted attempts to comply with the IMF demands."

TRADE MISSION TO VISIT DOMINICA FOR TALKS

FL171856 Bridgetown CANA in English 1828 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 17 (CANA) -- Guyana is sending a trade mission to Dominica as a first step to resuming trading relations. The mission will leave next month, a senior government official said here today.

Dominica's Trade Minister Charles Seraphin had invited Guyana to send a mission to Roseau to see what opportunities exist for a resumption of trade between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries. The invitation came after the two countries had a disagreement over a barter arrangement under which Guyana was supplying the Dominicans with rice in exchange for soap.

Each side blamed the other for the halt in the trade. Guyana President Forbes Burnham said that Dominica had refused to sign a number of agreements "despite several requests."

Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles, however, claimed that Guyana had stopped sending rice to her country because of Dominica's support for the Grenada invasion, which Guyana strongly opposed.

The matter was referred to the Caricom Council of Ministers meeting in Georgetown in January, and Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford said then that the two countries agreed to discuss the issue with a view to resolving it.

The details of the makeup of the mission have not yet been released.

FRENCH, NETHERLANDS 'INVOLVEMENT' PROTESTED

PA180012 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] More than 2,000 Surinamese have demonstrated in front of the French and Netherlands Embassies, protesting those two countries' roles in an attempt to organize an invasion of Suriname. Windows were broken in the two buildings and the Netherlands Embassy was occupied by approximately 50 demonstrators for 1/2 hour. Suriname has lodged a protest note with the Netherlands over the fact that the individuals planning the invasion had not been punished in that country. France still has not replied to Suriname's request to carry out an investigation in French Guiana.

Demonstrations Continue

FL180200 Bridgetown CANA in English 0117 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, April 17 (CANA) -- Thousands of Surinamese, including students and workers, today staged a demonstration through the streets of Paramaribo, the capital, and in a town on the border with French Guiana over what they said was the role of the French-administrated country and the Dutch Government in plots to overthrow the government here. The move followed the French authorities' expulsion order against 16 people who had been accused of preparing for an invasion of Suriname. The men, all of Suriname origin, later went to the Dutch Antilles in the Caribbean before going to the Netherlands. They were not charged by the Dutch Government, which cited lack of evidence. The demonstrations were a follow-up to demands which were made last week when protest notes were lodged at the French and Dutch Embassies in this capital, the official Suriname News Agency (SNA) said.

The demands include the immediate arrest and trial of mercenaries opposed to the Suriname government said to be operating in French Guiana and on Dutch territory, the breaking of all forms of cooperation with, and support of, a Holland-based council headed by former Suriname leader Henk Chin-a-Sen, "the immediate and complete destruction of all camps for the preparation of an invasion of Suriname," and "the seizure and showing of the world of all arms and other materials of the mercenaries," according to the agency. [passage indistinct] Parmaribo, Albina, a town on the border with French Guiana [words indistinct] staged a march [words indistinct] and later lodged a protest note with the district commissioner at Albina to be handed to the French Embassy in Paramaribo. "They said that they want to live in peace with the French people, and called on them to urge the French authorities to put an end to their involvement in the activities directed against Suriname," the news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Lunite Guyanais (Guyanese Unity), a French political party, has condemned the activities of foreigners who it said use French Guiana as a military training camp to prepare for an invasion of Suriname. The party made a declaration yesterday criticising what it termed the "equivocal attitude of the French colonial government" in the affair.

ECUADOR

ROLDOS HEADS GROUP FOR DEFENSE OF NICARAGUA

PA132027 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos has been designated honorary president of the Ecuadoran commission that is preparing a world conference for the defense of Nicaragua, to be held in Lisbon in May.

It has been reported that the commission was created during a meeting of the Ecuadoran Peace Council that discussed the need to create an organization that expresses the Ecuadoran stance on the aggression that Nicaragua suffers. In addition to Roldos, the commission is composed of Dr Fernando Duran, Lenin Ortiz, Dr (Juan Lobatus), and Central University rector Jose Moncada, economist, among other outstanding Ecuadoran personalities.

PRC MISSION ARRIVES FOR 1-WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT

PA151700 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] A delegation from China's National People's Congress, NPC, arrived in Quito today for an official visit scheduled to last until 19 April. During its stay in the country, the delegation, headed by Liao Hansheng, vice-president of the PRC [as heard], will make several protocol visits to the nation's leaders.

The group will visit President Osvaldo Hurtado and later will hold working sessions with various government entities and private organizations that have international ties. The delegation includes (Fu Hao), (Ling Yung), (Huan Zileng), and others.

VENEZUELA

CHERNENKO ADDRESSES AD SECRETARY GENERAL

PA171513 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Apr 84 p D 3

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vayno Vyalyas was received yesterday by Senator Manuel Penalver, secretary general of AD [Democratic Action].

The Soviet diplomat, accompanied by Jan Burliai [name as published], first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Caracas, handed Penalver a document signed by Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary, on the Central American situation and world tension resulting from the arms race.

Ambassador Vyalyas and the AD secretary general discussed the Central American crisis extensively and agreed on the need for that area's problems to be resolved by peaceful means and by respecting the peoples' right to self-determination, sovereignty, and peace, within a framework of democratization in all Central American nations.

Manuel Penalver was accompanied by Beatrice Rangel, vice president of the International Organization of Socialist Women.